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OPINION METER

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Bridge Capital LLC sponsors the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

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NATION



A pre-dawn tornado kills at least 12 people in three states.

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LIFE & STYLE



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DESPITE LONG MEETING WITH CHC DOCTORS

Lawmakers fail to decide on fate of 2 bills

» **Politics, micromanaging blamed for crisis at CHC**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Despite a two-hour talk with medical practitioners and acting governor Eloy S. Inos on the financial, management, and employee morale crisis at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Senate and House of Representatives members were unable to agree on the fate of an \$11.58 million line of credit bill and another bill on a \$5 million Medicaid state share.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Medical Affairs director Dr. Michael Deary gestures as he addresses lawmakers, acting governor Eloy S. Inos, and colleagues at a meeting yesterday in the House chamber on Capital Hill, mainly on the \$11.58 million line of credit bill to help the hospital pay its obligations to employees and vendors while it works on improving its billing and collection, among other things.

Rota gas prices: \$6.10 to \$6.90 a gallon

» **Shell follows Mobil's price hikes on Saipan**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rota has the dubious distinction of having the most expensive gas on American soil, with regular unleaded gasoline now at \$6.10 a gallon and diesel at \$6.90 a gallon while Tinian regular gas is also about to breach the \$6-mark once it raises pump prices by 10 cents.

In the CNMI, Rota and Tinian have much higher gas prices than those on the main island of Saipan, whose

prices already dwarf those across the United States and its territories.

Average gas price in the U.S. mainland was \$3.689 a gallon on Thursday, and that's an increase from the previous days and weeks amid the situation in the Middle East and demand for gas.

Meanwhile, Shell Marianas yesterday mirrored Mobil Oil Marianas' 10-cent increase on pump prices for regular, super, and diesel on Saipan—hitting a record high of \$5.159,

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MPLT to DPL: Where's the rest of the cash?

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust is directing the Department of Public Lands to “immediately report and remit” in full all public land lease proceeds, saying that these monies can be invested to increase the amount being remitted to the general fund.

MPLT chair Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero told DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta in a Feb. 24 “demand” letter that Public Lands “continues to unlawfully hold and withhold” public land lease proceeds that should have been remitted to the autonomous agency created to hold and invest the money.

Deleon Guerrero gave Babauta until

See **MPLT** on **Page 4**



MHS team wins the Real World Challenge regional

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A five-member team from Marianas High School emerged victorious yesterday in both the state and regional competitions for the Real World Design Challenge, earning the slot to compete in the national contest in Washington, D.C. next month.

The Board of Education and Education Commissioner

See **MHS** on **Page 4**

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the champion team gather for a group photo after the awarding rites yesterday at board of education. From left are Marjorie Cuervo, Clariza Magat, Jonabelle Cuervo, Eufemio Nino, Jill Ann Arada, and mentor John Raulerson. With their entry “Green Dolphinator” the group will represent the Pacific region in the Real World Design Challenge national competition next month. The team emerged yesterday as overall champion in both state and regional competitions.

» **Five-member team to fly to DC for national competition**

Local

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Healthcare corp. comes up with a new hospital employment manual

» **Emergency reduction-in-force, furlough highlight new policy**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta has issued a new employment manual for Commonwealth Health Center employees that highlights, among others things, a policy on emergency workforce reduction and furloughs, including termination without cause.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that Babauta informed CHC personnel about the new policy in a memorandum dated Feb. 14. The new employment manual replaces the existing rules and exempt staff and employees of the corporation from the application of the Commonwealth Civil Service Act.

Compared to the existing employment rules, the grievance, employment termination, and disciplinary and corrective action rules are largely new.

Based on the new CHC employment manual, the CEO can implement a temporary reduction in the number of employees due to lack of funds or work.

A furlough is an action placing an employee on non-duty and non-pay status because of lack of work or funds as determined by CEO or his designee and valid for 180 days.

A furlough that exceeds 180 days shall be considered an emergency reduction-in-force and shall be accomplished using emergency reduction-in-force procedures as defined by the manual.

"When it becomes evident that an emergency reduction-in-force [ERIF] must be made for the reason stated, the CEO shall issue a notice of ERIF. The notice shall explain why the action is being taken, and why alternative methods for reductions in expenditures and staffing were

not taken. The notice is effective seven days from issuance or for a shorter period if designated within the notice," the new manual states.

The new policy states that all employees included within the ERIF notice shall be terminated without reference to seniority, tenure, competitive levels, assignment rights, or any other methods. An employee whose employment was terminated by ERIF has no right to appeal the adverse action.

The new manual also authorizes the CEO to terminate employees with cause and without cause. Termination with cause refers to those based on an employee's unsatisfactory performance or behavior on the job, while termination without cause will not be based on the employee's unsatisfactory performance but instead on the fiscal situation of CHC. A 30-day notice for termination without cause is required and the decision is not appealable. For termination with cause, a notice within seven days is required and the decision can be appealed to the organization's appeals committee.

The new policy, meantime, indicates that those who are terminated without cause or affected by the emergency reduction in force can be placed on a re-employment priority list for related positions. The new manual also outlines the specific appeals procedures for termination for cause, procedures on implementing disciplinary and corrective actions, and provisions on voluntary resignation and retirement.

Early this year, Babauta mentioned in several occasions a planned streamlining of the organization, including the enforcement of emergency reduction-in-force. Without proper legal guidance and procedures, Babauta said that this cannot be enforced.

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Judge rejects robbery suspect's plea deal

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected yesterday a plea agreement that recommends a time-served sentence for a robbery suspect who also allegedly beat up the victim, a 65-year-old masseur.

Citing the seriousness of the

crimes, Camacho said he is not satisfied with the terms of the plea agreement that the government entered with Joshua Basaliso. Camacho believes that imposing a four-month time-served sentence in this case will not give a good mes-

sage to the community.

"We value our elders in this community," the judge said.

Camacho set a jury trial for July 9, 2012.

Under the plea deal, Basaliso was to plead guilty to assault and battery. He will then be

placed on probation.

Assistant attorney general Eileen Wisor said she believes in honoring the plea agreement that the previous leadership in the Office of the Attorney General had signed. "Like I said, this not my personal prefer-

ence," she said.

Wisor said the suspect did cooperate with the government in the investigation and even testified during the trial of co-defendant Nestor C. Taitano.

Attorney Antonio Atalig, court-appointed counsel for Basaliso, said his client has demonstrated that he's a law-abiding citizen since being released

from jail in April 2011.

"He's graduating in two months," Atalig said.

Basaliso testified for the government in the trial of his cousin, Taitano. He admitted beating up and taking the wallet of Chinese national Guoxi Liang in San Antonio on April 2, 2011. Taitano was acquitted. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Bench warrant issued vs suspected 'ice' trafficker

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho issued yesterday a bench warrant for the arrest of a suspected "ice" trafficker who failed to appear at a change of plea hearing.

Camacho granted assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll's verbal request for the issuance of a bench warrant in the amount of \$2,000 for Lian Jun Li.

Li's counsel, assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, told the court that they could not contact the defendant as well as his third-party custodian.

In the government's declaration in support of plea agreement, Driscoll said the defendant was charged with a series of trafficking and possession crimes

resulting from three separate controlled buys in Nov. 2011.

"While serious, this was the defendant's first arrest in the CNMI, and the total amount of the crystal methamphetamine at issue, 2.3 gross grams, was fairly low," Driscoll said.

The prosecutor said the negotiated plea agreement is consistent with other agreements accepted by the court for similar first time drug trafficking offenses.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the 48-year-old Li with three counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, and three counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

For one, there's no telling when the House will act on the Senate-substituted bills.

Lawmakers present yesterday didn't agree on passing or rejecting the bills in their latest forms, although some assured of "working together."

After the meeting ended in the House chamber, the lawmakers went their own ways. As of press time, there was no other meeting between the House and Senate to discuss the bills.

CHC Medical Affairs director Dr. Michael Deary, among 10 CHC medical affairs staff and private doctors at the meeting with lawmakers, said every single day that legislative action on the line of credit bill is delayed



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 2nd birthday to Quiana Elani "Nana." We love you! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

is another day that worsens the situation at the hospital.

Senators led by President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) wanted the House to either accept their version of the bills that originated from the House or reject them and call for a conference committee so they can "work together."

At least six House members led by Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said they don't want to accept the Senate versions of House bills 17-278 and H.B. 17-261, and asked the Senate to reconsider its action on the two measures.

Basa wants the CHC line of credit and all others that the Senate wants to be separated into two bills.

In a later interview, Basa said he would like to reintroduce his line of credit bill, hoping to get a different result from the Senate.

The acting governor, for his part, said he could sign the bills as substituted by the Senate, or the two bills that could come out of a conference committee once the House and Senate "get their heads together" and reach a compromise.

The medical staff present at the meeting asked that the House version of the \$11.58 million bill be passed and signed into law so that the corporation could have immediate access to funding that will buy medical supplies to treat patients and pay CHC employees and vendors on time, among other things.

CHC's Dr. Michael Hart said the hospital is unable to provide

a lot of services because it lacks a lot of things that could have been addressed had the line of credit bill been passed "yesterday."

"Otherwise I must say that if this corporation fails, we're going to have an unprecedented historical mess in this place because the hospital is without staff, without physicians, without lab technicians, without anything. It's just going to be a building," he said.

Some of them also straight out asked senators not to "micromanage" CHC by wanting to decide who should get hired and fired, and instead asked senators to talk to the CHC management team about these things.

CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta is off-island, while CHC executive officer James E. Phillips was not at the meeting.

Some of the physicians also feared that politics is getting in the way of helping CHC get over the crisis.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the Senate version of HB 17-278 would make available at least \$6 million for CHC. The bill authorizes the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide up to \$11.58 million line of credit to CHC.

Dr. Tony Stearns of the Marianas Medical Center, at the start of the meeting, hoped that there would be quick and effective solutions to CHC's problems by fostering communication among parties involved.

CHC inpatient pharmacist Anthony Raho said among the root causes of the crisis CHC finds itself now is the lack of planning in transitioning the hospital into a corporation to begin with.

Raho said that CHC thought that HB 17-278 would be a last-ditch effort to "save" CHC, to "give us that necessary capital for us to operate until such time we can improve the procedures and billing and collections..." He also said many of the staff thought the House bill "was a very viable source of revenue to help the corporation survive in the next few months."

"What we perceived as a workable piece of legislation came out of the House, went to the Senate, the Senate introduced some things that are understandable, but some things are completely non-understand-

able and we can't really support," he said.

He said either the bill passes or CHC will have to reduce its operations by 40 percent, which he said is "drastic" and would be detrimental to CNMI healthcare.

Raho, Hart, and other doctors said CHC and the community cannot wait for the bills to go back and forth like "ping pong" between the House and Senate.

Deary, who caught the ire of senators for a "letter to the editor" said that, "had the Senate chosen to accept that bill and approve it as is, the hospital would currently have funds where they could draw down on and we could be paying our vendors and we could be satisfying our obligations to employees."

Deary and Manglona had a heated exchange, each one accusing the other of being unpro-

fessional. Deary said Manglona and the senators need to respect his right to freedom of expression, while Manglona said that Deary should have gotten all information first before writing a letter to the editor and accusing the senators that they do not know what they're doing.

Another CHC doctor asked lawmakers to give CHC "autonomy" and "independence."

Dr. Leticia Borja, for her part, said that this has been the worst she has seen of CHC be since 2005 when she started working there. She said what the staff is also asking for is "stability."

"There is a solution available but there are delays...It makes us hope less...We want to get basic lab supplies, we want to get basic lab reagents so we can care for our patients. We want to get paid, we don't want to be threatened not to get paid," he said.

ROTA

From Page 1

\$5.479 and \$5.5519 a gallon, respectively.

"I am only earning minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour, and for me to buy gas on Rota I have to work more than an hour. To survive, I have to find other means to increase my income even for just a few dollars, like farming and fishing," said Rota resident Annabella Villamor, 36.

Villamor said she used to spend only \$30 a week on gas

but nowadays a week of gas costs her \$55 to \$60. Because of soaring gas prices, she has to limit her car use from her house in Sinapalo to her workplace in Songsong and vice versa.

"And now, prices increased again. That's really too much," she added.

Regular unleaded gasoline at both Luta Gas and Sasanhaya Service Station is now \$6.10 a gallon. Only Sasanhaya Service Station carries diesel, now at \$6.90, after a 10-cent increase.

As gas prices continue to surge, the most painful aspect is

the impact on families' disposable income, according to Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

"It places pressure on their budget as families and individuals must re-adjust spending to be able to afford the high cost of gas. With the soaring prices of gas, conservation could be an important step in reducing gas consumption and saving cost," she added.

On Tinian, gas prices remained unchanged as of yesterday but they were also expected to go up by 10 cents just like on Rota and Saipan.

MPLT

From Page 1

March 24 or "within 30 days" since the letter was written to remit these funds.

Should Babauta fail to meet their demand, Deleon Guerrero warned that MPLT will ask the Office of the Public Auditor to investigate, which may lead to prosecution by the Office of the Attorney General. He said MPLT may pursue statutory and constitutional authority in filing suit for the accounting of funds and hold DPL liable for violations such as breach of fiduciary duty.

"We hope that such actions

will be unnecessary," added Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero said MPLT trustees have had several meetings with DPL to discuss "continuing and unresolved concerns" concerning DPL's compliance with constitutional requirements to remit public land lease proceeds to MPLT.

He said MPLT has "consistently requested" from DPL financial disclosures, with requests dating back to the time of former DPL secretary John Del Rosario.

DPL remitted to MPLT \$1.25 million on Sept. 24, 2007, and \$1 million in November 2011 but both remittances were un-

supported by any financial report or information.

MPLT, Deleon Guerrero said, believes that DPL continues to hold on to "several millions of dollars" in excess of their appropriated money from the Legislature in its operation fund, which the trustees said is "illegal and incorrect."

Deleon Guerrero said that several government agencies have approached MPLT "for investment on reasonable rates of return." In 2008, MPLT loaned CUC \$3.5 million to fund the Aggreko generators. It also gave a \$4 million loan to the central government to pay for its utilities.

MHS

From Page 1

Rita A. Sablan conferred the top award yesterday on Jill Ann Arada, Jonabelle Cuervo, Clariza Magat, Marjorie Cuervo, and Eufemio Nino for the group's winning entry, the "Green Dolphinator."

They received the plaque with their mentor and teacher, John Raulerson, who promised to make the CNMI and the Public School System more proud of the team when they compete at the national level. The group won an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from April 18 to 23.

The Real World Design Challenge is an annual high school competition for all states and territories whose goal is to

transform the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education in the U.S. by providing professional science and engineering and learning resources to students and teachers. This year, the competitors' challenge was to develop an aircraft that could fly 200 miles in two hours. This is the first time for PSS to join the contest.

The MHS "Green Dolphinator" aircraft bested entries from Guam and American Samoa in the regional competition after garnering a total of 467 points out of the 500 points.

In the state level competition, Kagman High School's "Banidos Air" won second place, while Saipan Southern High School's "Manta Flyers" emerged third best. All teams presented their entries to the

Education Board yesterday.

According to Raulerson, the team has been working since November on the project. He said the "Green Dolphinator" uses no fuel but solar and geothermal energies—an efficient and environment-friendly aircraft that makes it affordable to more passengers.

The team's mathematician, Eufemio Nino, said they used lightweight materials such as aluminum and fiberglass to build the aircraft's wing. He said the success of the project lies in the calculation derivatives used to develop the overall design.

Project manager Jill Ann Arada said that extensive research and guidance from national mentors, whom they contacted during the developing process, were key to coming up with the "Green Dolphinator."



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Bridge Capital partners with arts council for Flame Tree Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC, an international investment banking and asset management company headquartered on Saipan, is partnering with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival scheduled next month.

Bridge Capital office manager/chief asset manager Allen Perez presented a \$10,000 check Wednesday to Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog and festival committee members led by overall chair Parker Y. Yobei.

The donation boosts Bridge Capital to the highest level of sponsorship called "Pacifica," equivalent to a major sponsor. Pacifica status is given to companies, organizations or individuals who provide monetary or in-kind sponsorship worth \$5,000 or more.

"On behalf of the 31st Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee, we express our profound gratitude to Bridge Capital, particularly to Mr. John Baldwin and Shawn Scott, for their generous donation that would surely allow us to accomplish our mission to promote arts and culture

through this event," said Yobei.

Yobei, who has been organizing the festival for the Arts Council for about five years now, described Bridge Capital's donation as "substantial" in these trying times.

"It certainly lifts a heavy financial burden on the committee's part in our efforts to provide our community a highly anticipated program," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In addition to the monetary donation, Bridge Capital is also collaborating with the Arts Council on its 3rd Annual Art Competition. Perez said they will display the competition entries and hold the awarding ceremony at the festival.

"This year, Bridge Capital looks forward to merging its art competition and the Flame Tree Arts Festival to display your talent for the entire CNMI to see," Perez said.

"Bridge Capital's efforts to collaborate with the Arts Council is a great example of private and public entities working together for the sake of local arts and culture," Arts Council executive director Hocog said.

The 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is slated for April 20 to 22 at the Civic Center



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A known supporter of local arts, Bridge Capital has also been making cash contributions to other non-profit and charitable organizations on the islands.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Bridge Capital, LLC office manager/chief asset manager Allen Perez, second left, presents the ceremonial check worth \$10,000 to the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee members led by overall chair Parker Y. Yobei, third left, and Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog, far right. Also in photo are committee members Darrell Moteisou, Remy Buniag, and Erica Trinidad.

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Worst-case scenario: PSS may impose work-hour cuts

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If the Public School System fails to receive badly needed funding from the central government this fiscal year, it will be forced to impose across-the-board work-hour cuts among its personnel, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan yesterday.

The proposal, which was presented by the financial management team to the Board of Education's fiscal and personnel committee, was described by Sablan as among the worst-case scenarios that the leadership team has been working on to survive until the end of the fiscal year in September.

PSS was allocated a \$30-

million budget this fiscal year, a large chunk of which pays for personnel costs. According to Sablan, PSS has over 900 personnel on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota whose salaries are being paid using local appropriation.

At the same time, Sablan said that PSS has \$11 million in maintenance-of-effort funding that it has yet to get from the central government in the last two fiscal years.

The federal government awarded PSS the state fiscal stabilization fund in fiscal year 2009 and among the requirements is the MOE funding. PSS was supposed to get over \$6 million in MOE funds in fiscal year 2010 and over \$4 million in fiscal year 2011, as calculated by the U.S.

Department of Education.

Sablan vowed to sustain talks with the Executive Branch about these receivables to avert any work-hour cuts among school employees.

"We're trying to recover these receivables because these are really part of the MOE for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and we would like to receive them

within the year to avoid any kind of personnel hour reduction," she said yesterday.

Sablan said the unremitted MOE has been on the discussion table since two years ago, but nothing has been done to address this.

"I hope they [Executive Branch] can make this a priority now because there is a

consequence that comes after this," she said.

Sablan recently ordered an across-the-board energy conservation policy that limits the use of air-conditioning units from between 10am to 3pm each day. At the elementary level, aircon units will only be on from 10am to 2pm.

Sablan said that PSS has

noted a 33-percent savings from this energy conservation measure and is optimistic that they will achieve the 45-percent target savings rate by the summer period from June to August.

Despite the expected savings, Sablan said these measures are not enough to meet all their financial needs. PSS has nearly 11,000 students.

Man'amko want austerity Friday lifted for Aging Office

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

As Older Americans Month approaches, the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council wants the Office on Aging exempted from the current austerity measures

being implemented throughout the government.

Council president Teresita Sorroza and vice president Maria T. Salinas wrote to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos saying that exempting the center from austerity Fridays will give the *man'amko* and

the Office on Aging staff more time for the preparation and actual activities for the monthlong celebration in May.

The theme for this year's Older Americans Month or *Mes Man'amko* celebration is "Never too old to play."

"Indeed, we are never too old to play, and therefore ask that you do not prohibit us from doing so," wrote Sorroza and Salinas, who signed and hand-delivered the letter to Inos' office on Capital Hill yesterday.

According to the two, many clients at the Aging Center rely on the services the institution provides, including healthy meals and assistance in the *man'amko's* errands.

The center, Sorroza and Salinas said, serves as a meeting area for the *man'amko* to meet with close friends and acquaintances. It also provides them with programs "that keep us feeling young and energetic."

The two pointed out that the Office on Aging is federally funded, with the office's approved state plan requiring them to open five days a week.

"As a result, we do not see the need to shut the center down every Friday when these expenses have already been accounted for," said Sorroza and Salinas. "The fact is we are losing money that can eventually assist our ailing economy."

The two said that clients at the center are calling for the restoration of the 80-hour work week for Office on Aging employees "since it is them who are responsible for implementing the programs we enjoy," adding that doing so will benefit not just the staff and the *man'amko* but the CNMI as a whole.

Sorroza and Salinas expressed confidence that Inos will have their best interest at heart and grant them their request.



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Mock trial competition today

The CNMI Bar Association, with assistance from the Judiciary, is hosting the 2012 CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition today, March 2, at the Guma Hus-tisia in Susupe. The competition's first round begins at 8:30am, with the finals to start at 5:15pm.

Mock trial is a scholastic competition between both public and private schools throughout the CNMI. The CNMI High School Mock Trial competition was started in 1999 by the CNMI Bar Association and former justice Ramon Villagomez as a way to introduce high school students to the justice system. This year, the mock problem is the criminal fictitious case of the *Commonwealth of the Pacific Islands v. Sam Haggan*. Each participating school receives

the fictitious case file complete with witness statements, exhibits, rules of evidence, and an abbreviated law library. Teams comprising six to 10 students have spent months practicing with the assistance of their volunteer attorney and teacher coaches to prepare for the competition.

During the competition,

students will portray the role of attorneys and witnesses and must present both sides of the case as the plaintiff and defense. The students will be judged based on their knowledge of the evidence and ability to present a logical and persuasive case. CNMI judges and attorneys serve as the presiding judges

and jurors/evaluators. The public is welcome to attend.

The winning team will travel to Albuquerque New Mexico in May to represent the CNMI at the 29th annual National High School Mock Trial Competition. Marianas Baptist Academy is the CNMI defending champion this year. (PR)

Chamber monthly meeting at PIC

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will conduct its monthly general membership luncheon meeting this coming Wednesday, March 7, 2012, at the Pacific Islands Club. Luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting commences at noon.

Speaking before the SCC Membership will be James

Stump, CIP project coordinating officer, from the Office of Management and Budget. Stump will offer a CIP grant status review and project report on numerous CNMI grants awarded the CNMI. These grants provide substantial funds that enter our CNMI economy on a number of project awards.

Also, speaking will be David J. Sablan, ESGR state chair Guam-CNMI Committee. Sablan will provide a brief overview of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program he administers.

The luncheon is \$15 for SCC members, \$20 for SCC guests and non-SCC attendees. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 2, 2001

\$100K to fund tourism promotions in Taiwan

The CNMI government is bent at releasing \$100,000 to finance additional promotional activities that would establish Saipan as a prime tour destination among Taiwanese travelers. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed Mandarin Air had specifically asked for government support in increased promotion of the CNMI in Taiwan to justify direct flights between Saipan and Taipei. Mr. Salas said Mandarin Air executives made this request known to the CNMI government during meeting last month with Northern Marianas officials headed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Senators claim LaMotte violate hiring policies

Senators yesterday castigated former Public Auditor Leo LaMotte's renewal of non-expiring contracts of OPA employees and decried them as a possible circumvention of the law. The issue stems from Mr. LaMotte's signing of contract extension to OPA employees shortly before he stepped down in December 2000. Some contracts at the time, from what current Public Auditor Michael Sablan said, were not even nine months old. Lawmakers found the contract renewals of the former Public Auditor disturbing and irregular.

Mar. 2, 2005

NMI overture met with 'wait-and-see' stance

None of the four airlines that Gov. Juan N. Babauta and his delegation visited in Japan last week made a commitment to provide more seat capacity to Saipan, the Marianas Visitors Authority reported. MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente said, however, that the airlines, as well as the travel companies that the delegation met with, were very receptive to the ideas presented by the CNMI group during the discussions. "We conveyed two messages for the tourism industry partners that we visited: 'Thank you for your support and please increase seat capacity to Saipan,'" said Benavente. "None of them made any commitment. Their attitude was more like 'we'll see' and I can totally understand them, considering the high fuel cost."

CNMI to get \$15K for drug overcharges

Attorney general Pamela Brown yesterday said that the CNMI government would receive some \$15,000 in reimbursement for Medicaid spending over an anti-anxiety drug. Several states earlier filed a lawsuit against New York City-based Bristol-Myers Squibb, which manufactures the drug BuSpar, for allegedly violating federal antitrust laws. The suit, however, resulted in a settlement agreement. "Bristol-Myers Squibb fended off competition by filing new patent on BuSpar with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Had the scheme gone unchallenged, it would have prevented the generic drug from entering the market for at least another 30 months," Brown said.

Mar. 2, 2006

\$1.9M anti-crime grants awarded

The Youth Advisory Council and the Criminal Justice Planning Agency Supervisory Council have awarded a total of \$1.9 million to new and ongoing projects related to prevention of crime, domestic violence, and substance abuse. CJPAC executive director Doris Chong said, in a memorandum to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, that the grants from the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs cover 31 different projects. The two biggest projects to be funded by the grants are the development of a criminal justice information system, amounting to \$450,000, and the purchase of 10 new police patrol vehicles, amounting to \$301,006. According to Chong, the information system program will initially include the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, and the courts. Future funding will be provided to include the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division, the Office of the Public Defender, Rota, and Tinian.

Judiciary mulling hikes in fees, fines

The CNMI Judiciary is mulling a possible increase in legal fees and fines to raise more revenues for the courts. The Supreme Court and the Superior Court have come up with a joint list of measures it planned to implement to reduce court expenditures and increase court revenues. Acting Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja said in a joint letter to special assistant for management Antonio Muna that the courts were looking at increasing fees and fines to help mitigate the government's current budget shortfall.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Gas price spikes aren't Obama's fault

The following editorial appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Tuesday, Feb. 28:

George W. Bush wasn't to blame when gas prices surged above \$4.50 a gallon in summer 2008, and President Barack Obama is not responsible for the 30-cents-a-gallon spike we've seen since December.

During Bush's second term, speculative trading, a weak dollar and growing demand from China and India were the culprits. Today, once again, Wall Street speculators are part of the reason, along with the uncertainty of supply from Iran and an increase in demand from the improving economy.

Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum are peddling the canard that Obama's "radical environmentalism" is to blame. Real radical environmentalists only wish Obama was one of them. The shortsighted GOP snipers want to ramp up offshore drilling and say the president should tap the nation's emergency reserves to bring down prices, but they're wrong. We didn't drill ourselves out of the spike in 2008, and we can't do it today.

Even under the most optimistic estimates by the Bush administration, drilling off the coast would have no significant effect on U.S. production for at least two decades. Even then, it would reduce prices by no more than 3 cents a gallon.

As to reserves: The U.S. holds 700 million barrels of oil, but that will supply the entire nation for only a month.

Obama should keep every drop of it in case of a true emergency, especially given the volatility in the Middle East, which controls so much of the world supply.

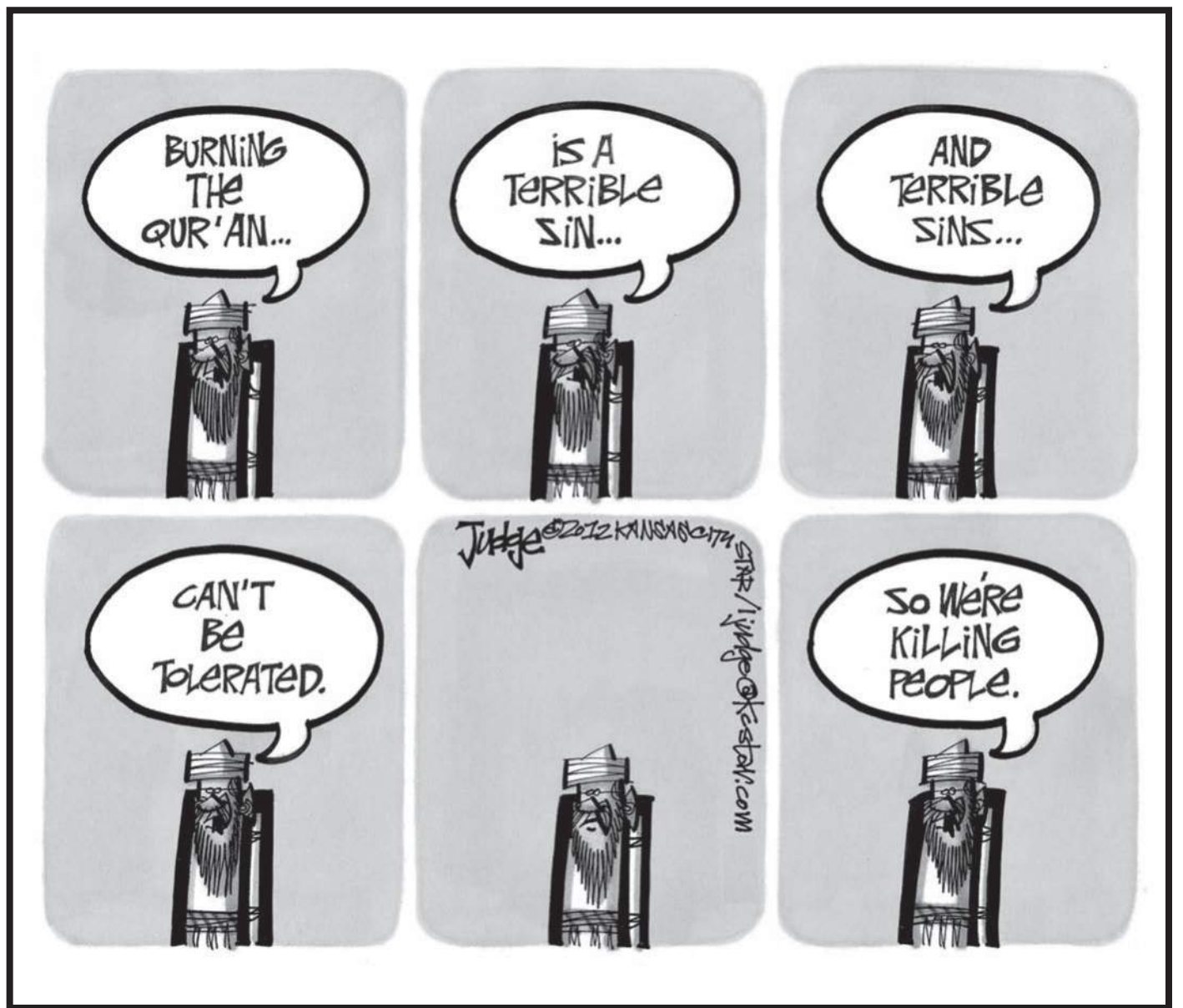
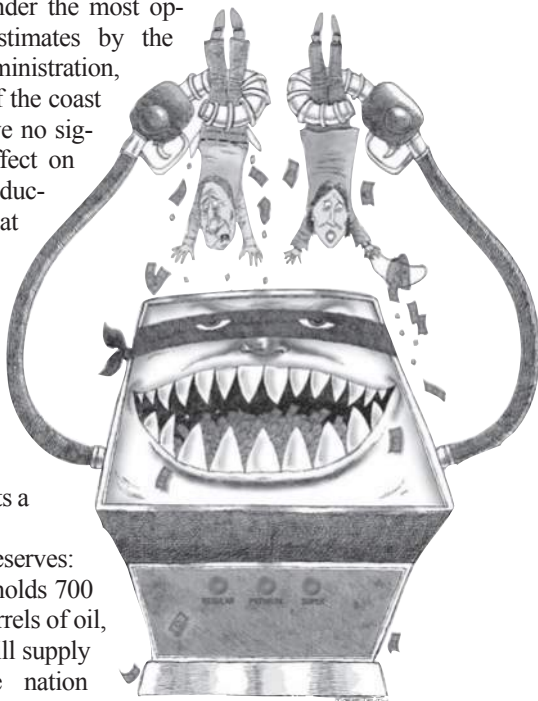
The core problem decades ago is the same today: The United States holds less than 2 percent of the world's oil reserves but consumes 25 percent of the world's oil. We can't drill enough to overcome that disparity.

The only thing that makes sense is to reduce reliance on oil through new technologies that, at the same time, will create jobs and make this country a world leader in green energy. That won't happen over night either, but at least it's a forward-looking strategy.

Obama last week said this is the time to "double down on a clean energy industry that has never been more promising."

He's right.

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When the pump runs dry

By EDWIN BLACK
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Under international pressure over its nuclear ambitions, Iran is now threatening to take pre-emptive action, which could include disrupting oil supplies to the West. It will come as a shock to most Americans, but no presidential candidate—nor, apparently, any agency at the local, state or federal level—has developed a contingency plan in the event of a protracted oil cut-off. It is not even being discussed.

Government has prepared for hurricanes, anthrax, terrorism and every other disaster, but not the one threatened daily: a protracted oil stoppage, whether caused by terrorism or Iranian intervention in the Persian Gulf. It is like seeing a hurricane developing without a disaster plan or evacuation route. Our allies have oil shortage interruption contingency plans, but America does not.

The crude realities: America uses approximately 19 million to 20 million barrels of oil per day, almost half of which is imported. If we lose just 1 million barrels per day, or suffer the type of damage sustained from Hurricane Katrina, the government will open the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which offers a mere six- to eight-week supply of unrefined crude oil. If we lose 1.5 million barrels per day, or approximately 7.5 percent, we will ask our allies in the 28-member International Energy Agency to open their SPRs and otherwise assist. If we lose 2 million barrels per day, or 10 percent, for a protracted period, government crisis monitors say the chaos will be so catastrophic, they cannot even model it. One government oil crisis source told me: "We cannot put a price tag on it. If it happens, just cash in your 401(k)."

Exactly how could America be subjected to a protracted oil interruption—that is, a 10 percent shortfall lasting longer than several weeks? It will not come from hurricane action in the Gulf of Mexico, or even major refinery accidents or other oil infrastructure damage. Such damage would be repaired within days and the temporary losses absorbed by the small, half-million-barrel-per-day global cushion available.

But a disruption of the vital Persian Gulf chokepoints—the Abqaiq processing plant in eastern Saudi Arabia, the Ras Tanura terminal on the Saudi Arabian coast, or the two-mile-wide sea lane of the Strait of Hormuz—would be devastating. If one, two or three of them is hit by terrorists flying hijacked jumbo jets or shut down by Iranian military action, as much as 40 percent of all seaborne oil will be stopped, as much as 18 percent of all global supply will be interrupted, and more than 10 percent of the U.S. supply will be cut

off. Estimates on the U.S. shortfall suggest the percentage lost could be far higher. Repeat attacks, and the difficulty of anti-mine operations in a hostile environment, could prolong the crisis for many months—which is exactly what al-Qaida and the Iranian regime have promised. Yet, apparently, there is no government plan.

The best experts predict that if we suffer as much as a 10 percent shortfall for any period of time, let alone 20 percent, it will be a neighbor-against-neighbor, "Mad Max" scenario as food shortages swell and a storm of economic collapse surges across the country. Indeed, experts have been warning about this looming calamity for years. But the government and presidential candidates refuse to even consider the possibility or develop a contingency plan. Even if a secret plan exists, who would execute such a monumental undertaking?

Yet American allies have developed oil contingency legislation and other administrative plans that will permit their nations to survive a stoppage. These measures include severe vehicle traffic reductions, enabling fast alternative fuel production and mass vehicle fuel retrofitting, as well as rush public transit enhancement and mandated changes in driving habits. Unquestionably, for America to survive such a catastrophe would require a very painful, multi-layered program of immediate-term, short-term, mid-term and long-term fixes that would change our society and transform it off of dependency on oil. Currently, the nation has no real alternative fuel delivery or retrofitting infrastructure. Lawmakers, mayors, governors and candidates have not developed such a plan during the half decade the interruption has been looming.

The notion that Saudi Arabia can make up the shortfall from an Iranian disruption is impossible. Saudi oil too must pass through the narrow sea lanes of the Strait. The trans-Arabian Petroline that terminates at Yanbu can carry only a few million barrels per day, and a rush project to double its capacity would require an estimated \$600 million and some two years of construction and chemical changes; this presupposes Iran would not simply attack the line with a barrage of medium range missiles from its Red Sea forward ports.

For America to have prepared intelligently for a Persian Gulf oil interruption would have required a decade of planning. To absorb the hit from a sudden oil stoppage, as is now once again threatened, will be very painful indeed.

Edwin Black is the author of several books, including *The Plan: How to Save America When the Oil Stops—or the Day Before*, from which this article is adapted. More information about *The Plan* can be found at www.planforoilcrisis.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The tiger list

The tiger economies are roaring, while the jellyfish economies are foundering. Some people got the memo on that. Some others never will.

For those wanting to learn a tiger language, Mandarin Chinese is certainly a tempting option. It's a common topic in e-mail from *Saipan Tribune* readers. So common, in fact, that I have rounded up a couple of Chinese teaching experts who are going to offer some wisdom in this space within the next few weeks. I'm still pulling that article together, so stay tuned.

But in the meantime, you're stuck with the opposite of an expert. Namely me. However, there's in that, given that the experience of being a newbie is still fresh in my mind. For all my problems with the language, I've managed to do one thing right, and that's what I am going to mention today. This might interest those of you who are going to tackle a new language, be it Mandarin or something else.

First, some context: I've taken three semesters of Mandarin. I'm on the fence about taking a fourth semester. I can't "speak Chinese," three semesters alone is not nearly enough for that. But I can, sometimes, manage to accomplish the simplest of things, like ordering some items in a restaurant, or giving people a basic idea of my profession and where I come from, and stuff like that. I can catch the gist of some store and street signs, but not of others. Overall, I am still a total beginner in this language, there's no doubt about it.

I knew it was going to be a challenge from the start, so the one

A force for the good of the islands

By **STANLEY T. MCGINNIS TORRES**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Zoning can be a very positive force for good on Saipan if done correctly. It can be an anchor that drags us down if done only to protect the rich from competition or to shield them from the reality of island life and our traditions.

I have listened to the few who oppose the bill to improve zoning (House Local Bill 17-26, S3) and have noticed one main thing about their objections. They come mainly from people and companies that already have their property zoned like they want it. The objections come from the wealthy and the landed rich. Almost to a man or woman, they have a statesider's mentality about restrictive zoning because they are rich and want to keep the reality of everyday life away from themselves.

The problem with that is that most of my constituents don't fall into this class of elites who want to pretend the old zoning laws as enacted now are as good for Saipan as they were for Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for which they were written. The decent citizens that voted for me to represent them don't want to stop development, they don't want every house in their neighborhood to look like every other house, so many feet apart and with a fence so high and a color

History turns into myth

By **AV FLOX**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is an essay written by a former intern of the Saipan Tribune.

Igrew up barefoot in a place where nature and history exist side by side. Pieces of Ming Dynasty porcelain dotted the shore of a beach near my house where a Spanish galleon long ago capsized off the coast, taking its treasures with it to the bottom of the sea, to be spit out, in pieces, on to the shores for children to find for centuries afterward.

Stories are told still of eras long before, when the sea had returned gold to the coastline and the inhabitants of the island, having no use for such a soft metal, had used it to decorate the trees around their villages. You can still see the gold sometimes, after one of those powerful but brief showers in the middle of the day, when the light bounces off the wet leaves and fruits like so many shimmering ornaments.

That's not the only thing the Spanish left behind. The feast days are still there, cradled by folklore. Ancestral spirits and creation myths walk beside saviors, virgins, and saints. Jesus died for our sins, they say, whatever sin is, but it's the turtle that saved our ancestors from the life-giving and death-dealing sea. You cross yourself as you pass the church, but you pause when you encounter the banyan tree and ask permission to step over thick and gnarled roots. Maybe you're afraid of damnation, but the stories told around the

thing I did right was to diligently list every word I learned. This helped keep wind in my sails when all else was veering off-course.

As for software, OpenOffice Writer proved to be the perfect tool for the list. It lays out tables well, and they are easy to sort and edit. The list is 74 pages long, I buy three-hole pre-punched paper to print it on, and I put the paper into a half-inch (ring diameter) binder. That's the sweet spot for binder size, by the way, just big enough to hold the list with room to spare, but small enough to travel with.

In one of the binder pockets I keep a handwritten list of words I want to learn, and in another I keep a few sheets of paper with grids on it so I can practice writing those words. When I finally beat a few of them into my head, I fire up the computer and add them to the list, along with my notes on how the words are derived and other stuff that will help me remember them better. I'm not saying it's the best system in the world, but at least it's a system.

It has been a laborious process, due largely to my clumsy efforts with Chinese word processing, as I cut and paste back and forth to my Writer document.

I later expanded my list to incorporate summarized notes on grammar, about 50 key points, which got pretty difficult for me, so I got a native speaker to review and edit that material.

Meanwhile, I'll note that there have been a lot of words we were supposed to learn in class, but I learned them just long enough to pass the test, and I never put them on my list. By contrast, there are words on the list that we never learned in class, but which I needed to learn anyway, so they went on the list.

So, what did I get for my efforts? Overall, I like having every-

that suits the Zoning board. They own a small or a big piece of land and want to use it for their family's benefit.

Regular people with small landholdings want to have access to development on their property for business or residences without the wealthy elites forcing unreasonable costs and restrictions on them. The everyday citizen, my neighbors and yours, just want to use their own land as they see fit. The heavy-handed zoning laws as written now keep them from using their own land more often than not. The smaller, private investor should benefit from zoning as much as the big, corner intersection, established business does.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and their organizations that support the old zoning rules just want to make it hard for competition to get started. HLB 17-26, S3 tries to correct this situation and make it again possible for the little guy to get his business started without zoning costing him a fortune. HLB 17-26 S3 finds the right compromise that zones but still lets a rural, town, or village property owner build and develop his or her property for business or for a residence and having to be told that you cannot do that kind of business because it is not permitted, period—for example religious activities. Since when do we regulate religious activities?

The zoning laws need to be first culturally and business friendly

campfire aren't about hell, they're about what happens when the *taotaomo'na* are disrespected.

Another stroll, another beach, this one with white, finer sand, where in certain places you can see the tracks left by so many little turtle hatchlings. Take a swim across the turquoise lagoon and you'll find, perched on the reef like lost relics of a foreign strife, two Sherman tanks left behind during the Second World War, less than a mile from the shore. Red with corrosion, they are now part of the ecosystem that those who navigated them over the coral cared so little to spare. You can do pull ups on the barrel, and sit atop them to watch the sunset, but beware the lion fish that call their interiors home, along with so many other sea things.

I've swam with reef sharks and hawksbill turtles, stone fish and parrot fish, lion fish and sea cucumbers. I've seen the waves glow with bioluminescent dinoflagellates and woken surrounded by coconut crabs the size of my fist. I've dived grottoes and airplane graveyards and watched in wonder as my entire form is darkened by the shadow of a manta gliding over me. Such beautiful things.

But those planes are a reminder—beyond this vast blue, on a smaller island, a B-29 named after the pilot's mother took off on Aug. 6, 1945, and dropped Little Boy on Hiroshima. The airfield remains on this island, unmarked but untouched, just a short distance from a casino where Washington's congressional fact-finding missions go to convalesce after some days of arduous golfing. I took my grandfather there once and while everyone laughed over chips and cards, we sat on the field, somber and mute.

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



thing boiled down to one reference, it just gives me a clearer frame of mind for studying. It's also very easy to back up, of course, so when I inevitably lose my texts and books, I've still got all the juice. And a computerized list makes it easy to make computerized flash cards.

Right now, I'm not forging ahead in my studies. I'm merely trying to improve my recall of stuff, and, of course, the list is perfect for that.

I don't know your frame of mind for such things, but I sure know mine, and I know that I would not have even started this list if I had to play catch-up and face a mountain of material that needed compilation. So, for me, the only thing that made it practical was that it was an ongoing process from my very first day, which kept pace with my classes and studies.

Anyway, that's the one thing I did right. If you want to roar with the tigers, then a vocabulary list might be worth its stripes.

for all businesses big and small. They need to be developer friendly, whether one house or a whole tract. They need to be landowner friendly. They need to allow private owners to determine the best use of their own land first and foremost.

The changes to the laws are needed. The amendments proposed in HLB 17-26, S3 are not put forth to protect the bigger members of the Chamber of Commerce. The amendments are to allow the least of us to get into the system: To start a business or to build us a house and to use our own property in a way that benefits us while still preserving the island way and our island's beauty.

This is not Fort Lauderdale or New York City. Our island community is a special place with special needs and what we do not need is a meddlesome zoning law that keeps us from using our own land for the good of our own family. We need zoning to point us in a direction, not to hit us with a hammer.

Please join me in supporting HLB 17-26, S3. Once approved by the governor it will become a force for growth and prosperity for our home island of Saipan.

Stanley Tudela McGinnis Torres is a member of the House of Representatives of the 17th CNMI Legislature.






I met Paul Tibbets before he passed, shortly after the 65th anniversary of the war, at a bar with a picture of the mushroom-shaped cloud on one of the walls. It was the strangest moment of my life, a pivotal moment, though nothing happened, besides a gin and tonic. To grow up among these artifacts—the pock-marked cliffs where we brought oranges and candles to commemorate people we never met, running through the invasive species of tree brought in to prevent erosion after the landscapes were destroyed in this history-defining stage of a war greater than any single nation, the bunkers in which we hid to drink and kiss, the old Japanese jail where we gave in to self-disclosure and told one another the longings of our hearts, the rusted grenades and half-scorned glass Coca-Cola bottles we kicked up in the jungle cantering on horseback, so many things—and here was a man, just a man like any other at that bar, yet I couldn't ask a single question.

They call places like these paradise, and they're right. But no paradise is without history. And yet—because there is always a yet—no matter how many buildings we erect and how many battles are waged over land and principle, the island refuses to be taken. If myth dies hard, nature dies harder. Savage and beautiful, it's claimed those tanks and bunkers. It's claimed old satellites and factories. It's claimed an amusement park and a mall. And it will claim every building after we're gone, leaving only shards and rusted things. One can only hope someone will remain to tell our story, the same way we tell the stories about the banyan tree and how the turtle carried our ancestors safely across the sea.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79

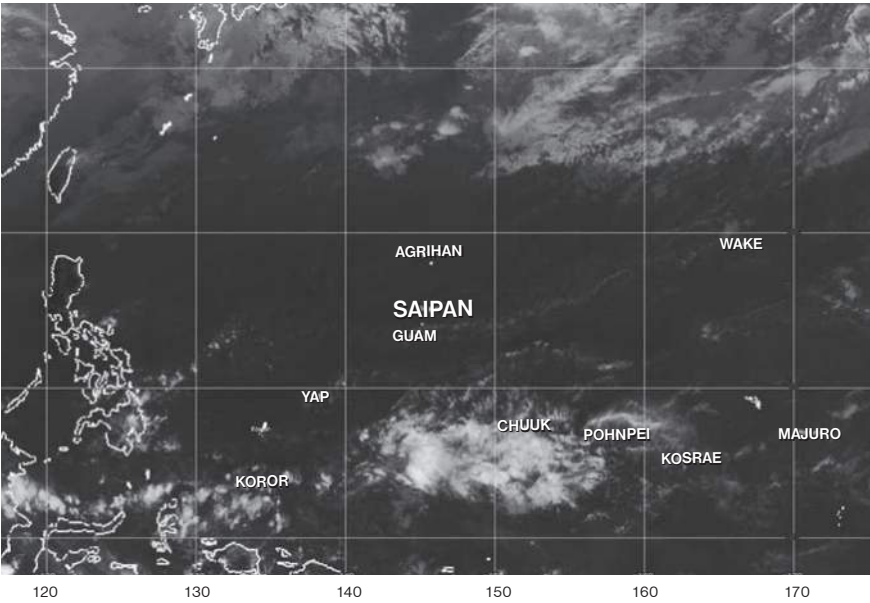
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 66 ▼ 63
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 78 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 44
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 59
Miami	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 71
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 44
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 41
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Pusan	Windy	▲ 48 ▼ 41
Rome	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 47
Salem	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 44
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 30
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 52

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
8:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
1:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
9:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from 25N174E to north of Wake Island at 23N168E then continues as a shear line to end west of the Marianas at 13N142E. Patchy clouds and rain are found north of the cold front. Widely scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of the shear line. Trade-wind convergence combined with a surface trough running northward from EQ147E to 5N146E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk between 3N and 7N from 144E to 157E. Trade-wind convergence is also producing scattered showers southeast of Majuro within 125 miles of a line extending from 5N173E to 2N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:44 PM	1:10 AM
Saturday	1:36 PM	2:00 AM
Sunday	2:30 PM	2:49 AM
Monday	3:26 PM	3:37 AM
Tuesday	4:22 PM	4:23 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5	C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5	C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP	C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6	C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6	C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5	DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM	C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM				
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN	C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana							
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

Govt credit union not fazed by the unremitted share of CHC members

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Government Credit Union acknowledged yesterday that the agency did not get the expected allotments of its members at the Commonwealth Health Center after the healthcare corporation failed to remit the funds to the union.

Despite this, however, credit union board chair Angel Hocog assured that the union is extending its consideration to the organization and understands that it is going through a critical transition.

Although he admitted the delay in remittances, Hocog wouldn't say how many pay periods were covered, referring the matter to union manager Ruth Ann Sakisat, who was not available to comment Wednesday and has yet to respond to an email inquiry.

"We are in communication with the corporation. They're



THE IMPORTANCE OF ART

Pete Aldan and students from Kagman High School visit the newly renovated Saipan Grand Hotel lobby on Feb. 29 to learn about the importance of art and how it impacts society.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hocog

now just trying to find money to allocate because those monies were already deducted from employees' paychecks and part of their savings now," he said.

Despite revelations of unpaid obligations to other vendors, Hocog is optimistic that the problem with the unremitted allotments would be resolved. "I think we just need to be patient because once it is settled, they will find ways to pay us," he said, adding that this is the first time this problem arose with their members at CHC.

"We know that like the central government, the corporation is also struggling financially and I guess, it needs some time," said Hocog.

Affected employees interviewed yesterday expressed worry that the delayed remittance would affect their accounts or outstanding loans. They revealed that the corporation has not been remitting their allotments for the past four pay periods, like the employees' health insurance premiums and contributions to their private retirement plan.

The credit union was created to provide its members a source for obtaining loans and credit and a depository for savings. Membership in the union is restricted to CNMI government employees, retirees, and their spouses and children.

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Funding for cancelled ILS project redirected anew

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The \$3.5-million funding originally allocated for the construction of an instrument landing system at the Tinian airport was redirected again by the Tinian Legislative Delegation, delaying some critical port improvement projects on the island such as its dilapidated seawall.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday that the \$3.5 million will now be used for the following projects:

- \$1.5 million for the emergency harbor repair, which is ongoing;

- about \$1 million is for the purchase of an equipment for

the existing landfill; and

- \$1 million for the improvement of the Tinian Health Center and some ports project that Hofschneider couldn't immediately specify.

The ILS project has been on the drawing board since 2005, with an initial funding of \$3.5 million obtained from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Because this was deemed not a priority, the delegation cancelled the project in July last year and diverted the funds to other airport and seaport projects on Tinian such as the emergency repair of the harbor, rehabilitation of the terminal, parking, and possibly the design and construction of a storage fuel tank.

The money could be used,

according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority then, to procure a cargo conveyor, build stairs for deplaning passengers, and to satisfy other requirements of the Transportation Security Administration.

According to Hofschneider, the "redirection" of the ILS funds was approved by Tony Babauta, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas of the Department of the Interior, during the official's visit to the island in December. He praised Babauta's support of the delegations intention to address the most critical projects on Tinian.

Hofschneider said that the procurement of equipment for the landfill, for one, is very important because it would enable the island to maintain the

current dump site and comply with environmental regulations. The Tinian landfill has been the subject of administrative orders issued by both local and federal environmental agencies due to noncompliance with regulations.

The emergency harbor repair, which includes replacing its bollards and fenders, is ongoing and expected to be completed within the year.

Although the Tinian Health Center is now under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Hofschneider said it is still the responsibility of the delegation to help it improve its services.

Since the center was built in the early '80s, there have been no repairs and improvements done to the building. The allocat-



Hofschneider

ed funds, Hofschneider said, will address some electrical upgrade, facility improve-

ments, and other needed repairs. He pointed out that the corporation's current financial dilemma could delay the repairs if they wait for it to regain its footing.

When asked about specific ports projects they intend to accomplish with the ILS funding, Hofschneider could not immediately cite one, saying the delegation has to assess where to best put the remaining funds.

Very unfortunate

Tinian airport and seaport manager Joseph Mendiola described the new "reprogramming" as "very unfortunate" as funds are badly needed to address critical concerns at the seaport and airport.

Mendiola said, however, that if the delegation is firm in redirecting the ILS funds from seaport and airport projects, "I hope that there will be proper consultations among parties."

He told *Saipan Tribune* that he was not aware of this new action by the delegation.

According to Mendiola, by taking away the monies earlier intended for airport and seaport development, this only shows that critical needs at the ports are of "less priority" to the delegation.

Mendiola, cited for one, the need to conduct an engineering assessment to determine the integrity of the seawall and the entire harbor.

"This is a very critical project because down the line, with big problems at the port, the Coast Guard may come and close us down," he said.

The Tinian airport also faces some problems with its terminal that, if not addressed soon, will cost the Tinian government and its people more, he added.

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Feel the difference



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 50th birthday to Sister Mary Margaret Camacho. Welcome to our elite 50-Something Club. It's all downhill from here, sister! We nuff you berry much. Greets from the Agulto/I-Denni family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN POLL CHALLENGE CASE**Rota mayor wants ex-lawmaker to pay his attorney's fees, court costs**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola has filed a motion in court to compel former Rota representative Victor Hocog to pay him \$10,046.25 in attorney's fees and court costs as the prevailing party in an electoral challenge.

Mendiola, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the Superior Court on Monday to issue an order compelling Hocog to foot his attorney's fees and court costs.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that in an election contest, the victor is awarded attorney's fees.

"The victor in this case and in the election was Mayor Mendiola. Hopefully the court will mandate payment of fees to compensate Mayor Mendiola in defending his election victory," Torres said.

In Mendiola's motion for an order in aid of judgment, Torres said that, on Nov. 17, 2011, the court entered an order awarding attorneys' fees and costs to Mendiola in the sum of \$10,046.25.

The lawyer said that Hocog was electronically served through his attorney, Michael W. Dotts, via LexisNexis with a copy of the order.

Since being served, Torres said, Hocog has made no payments on the judgment.

"Mr. Hocog remains gainful-

ly employed on Rota and with resources to pay on the judgment against him," Torres said.

In the same order, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja also directed Ross Hugh Songao Manglona to pay Rota Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu \$7,069.75 in attorney's fees and court costs.

Manglona ran for a House's seat, but was defeated by his lone rival, Teresita Apatang Santos.

Mendiola defeated Hocog in the mayoral race.

Manglona and Hocog had sued for a recount of votes, saying the

Judge reduces ex-convict's bail to \$6K cash

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho reduced Wednesday the \$31,000 cash bail imposed on an ex-convict who was arrested last month for possession of methamphetamine or "ice" to just \$6,000 cash.

Upon posting bail, suspect Joseph A. Crisostimo will be placed under house arrest.

The judge said the 38-year-old Crisostimo is prohibited from leaving his residence unless an emergency such as going to a hospital.

Crisostimo will be arraigned on March 5, 2012, at 9am.

The Office of the Attorney General on Monday charged Crisostimo with illegal possession of a controlled substance

Commonwealth Election Commission didn't follow procedures when counting the Rota ballots.

On Dec. 9, 2009, Naraja upheld the Nov. 7, 2009, election results for the House and mayoral races on Rota and dismissed the lawsuits.

Manglona and Hocog appealed. The CNMI Supreme Court ordered the recount, citing the election commission's violation of election law. The recount focused only on the votes for Rota mayor, senator, and representatives.

On Jan. 8, 2010, the commission completed its recount and reached the same results: Mendiola and Ayuyu prevailed as mayor and senator, respectively.

and criminal contempt.

Police detective Steven Castro stated in his report that two police officers were conducting routine patrol at a secluded beach site in Susupe on Jan. 11 at 3:18am when they saw a white car with license plate ACN-712. The officers approached the vehicle and met with the occupants, Crisostimo and John Namauleg.

One of the officers saw a clear glass pipe with residue in the back seat. The officers searched the vehicle and allegedly recovered Ziploc baggies as well as a cut off straw.

The officers arrested the two.

Castro said that Crisostimo is still on probation from a previous case. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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\$11,995^{00*}



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Tinian's hot pepper festival the largest yet this year

This month's 8th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival attracted the largest crowd ever for a weekend of island-style relaxation, feasting, and fun on the island. Organizers reported a 22-percent increase in sales from the larger turnout on Feb. 18-19, 2012.

The first-ever festival bike Fun Ride was organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office, with a quiet and picturesque

course traversing island historic and scenic sites both on- and off-road.

Special boat and airline fares attracted a number of first-time festivalgoers.

"We're pleased to partner with the Tinian Mayor's Office on another successful Tinian Hot Pepper Festival and are encouraged by the growing number of attendees," said Marianas Visitors Authority

community projects manager Martin Duenas. "The Pika Festival is the perfect opportunity for a holiday weekend getaway to Tinian, and we look forward to continuing to expand this annual signature event of the Northern Marianas."

Top bragging rights in the *donne sali* (hot pepper) eating contest went to Corey San Nicolas in the women's division and Jay San Nicolas in the

men's division. For excellent taste and presentation, Bill Cing cooked up first place in the *estafao pika* contest.

On the sports front, Pikali-cious Team topped the co-ed Tinian Hot Pepper Festival 4-Person Beach Volleyball Tournament 2012, while Team DCCA sailed away with first place in the Dragon Boat Race. Meanwhile, Osi Reyes' entry was slow but steady in

winning the *umang* (hermit crab) race.

Adding to the visual appeal of the weekend, E&L Kitchen was selected as having the best booth decorations, and Augusta Famaw delivered the top-winning entry in the *mwar* (flower head lei) making competition.

The festival also included indigenous craft sales, live entertainment including cultural dances, Hapi the clown, and ed-

ucational presentations by various government agencies.

The event was also supported by Joeten Ent., IT&E, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, MARPAC, Docomo, the Department of Public Safety, 13th Tinian Municipal Council, and other MVA members.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is held every Presidents Day weekend in the Northern Mariana Islands. (MVA)

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MMAC Committee's note: As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Marianas March Against Cancer, the 2012 MMAC committee would like to honor and recognize the efforts of our teams for their untiring support in the fight against cancer.

For Team #FREEDAVE, their debut at the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer is particularly significant for its team captain, Rob Travilla.

Travilla, who has been involved with MMAC for the last three years but has yet to form a team, decided to do so this year to recognize the battle that his friend and brother, David Ayuyu, known as "Kid Slick" of the local group Fatal Hitz, is going through.

"The fight that my brother David is facing definitely in-

MEET THE MMAC TEAMS

Team #FREEDAVE

spired and pushed me to get it going," said Travilla of Ayuyu, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer last year and is presently undergoing chemotherapy off-island.

Travilla's Salbahe' Company and Fatal Hitz Entertainment, along with family and friends of Ayuyu, formed a team dedicated to Ayuyu and dubbed Team #FREEDAVE.

Travilla recounted how the team was originally established on the social network site Twitter, generating followers who have helped provide moral support to Ayuyu.

Their MMAC plans, Travilla said, is to raise awareness about testicular cancer. According to

Travilla, some 7,500 to 8,000 males in the United States, usually between 15 to 39 years, are diagnosed with testicular cancer every year.

"Since the establishment of our team, we have been constantly spreading the word to 'fight with us' and 'get with us' on all our social network sites," said Travilla.

He said that the Testicular Cancer Awareness Foundation, an internationally known non-profit organization aimed at fighting the disease, has already begun following the #FREEDAVE MOVEMENT, which is working with TCAF to provide them with brochures, handouts, and giveaways for their MMAC tent.

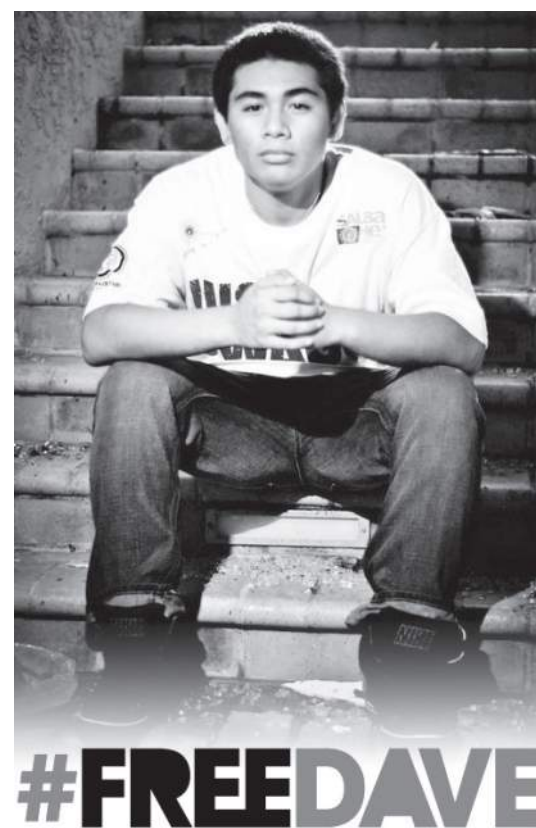
Travilla, whose co-captain is Barney Travilla, said they also plan to feature #FREEDAVE-themed and street-inspired artwork in Salbahe' Brand and Tha Trapp shirts, which will be available in their Gualo Rai store or during the MMAC. All proceeds will be donated to MMAC.

Travilla commended the veteran MMAC teams because of their commitment and dedication in the fight against this deadly disease.

"Don't forget why you're doing it and don't forget what you're fighting for," he added.

All proceeds raised at the MMAC will be spent entirely in the CNMI through cancer awareness programs, patient assistance, and other cancer-related activities.

For more information, contact 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccmarianas.org.



HEALTH WALK MARCH 03, 2012



Registration Information:

Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion

Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach

**Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field
– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS**

Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-009

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF WATER DIVISION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-009, Supply & Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions with regards to CUC-RFP-12-009 must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 19, 2012** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joel Hoepner, CUC Water/Wastewater Division Engineer via email joel.hoepner@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

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3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012
Limit 1

Whole Chicken
LIMIT 1 CASE
\$37.99
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Young Spare Ribs
10 LBS.
\$20.99
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Pork Spareribs
BBQ Adobo Cut
20 LBS.
\$21.99
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Beef Back Ribs
20 LBS.
\$27.99

Gusto Smoked Ham
\$2.29
/POUND

Mackerel
SABA 22.4 LBS. **\$24.99**
PIKE
(uneven weight per case) **\$1.29**
/LB.

Vegetable Oil
5 Gal. limit 1
\$31.99
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Lotte Icis Water
500ml. x 20
\$5.99
/CASE

Jasmine Lotus Rice
50 LBS. (LIMIT 1)
\$25.99
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Diamond G Rice
50 LBS. (LIMIT 1)
\$30.99
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Marukiyo's Rice Crackers
100 pcs.
\$8.99
/CAN

Sapporo Ichiban
21 pcs./case (LIMIT 1)
\$8.99
/CASE
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Nescafe Classic
210 g.
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Nescafe Classic
52.5 g.
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Milo
1 Kg.
BUY 1 TAKE 1

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Gusto Ham
10 lbs. **\$17.99**
Bar-S Ham
10 lbs. **\$19.99**

Miller Sausage
5 lbs. **\$15.99**

Chamorro Sausage
Reg/Hot 1 lb. **\$4.99**

Bar-S Bacon
1 lb. **\$3.29**

Bar-S Hotdog
1 lb. **\$1.19**

Seaport Imitation Crab Stick
16 oz. **\$1.99**

Ground Beef
5 LBS. **\$10.99**
10 LBS. **\$19.99**

Bar-S Hotlinks
24 oz. **\$3.99**

Mackarel/Pike Family Bag
\$6.99

Peeled Shrimp
SC Brand 1 lb. **\$2.99**

Ocean Best Marinara Mix
1 lb. **\$2.49**

Cut Swimming Crab
1.5 lbs. **\$6.99**

Vega Shrimp
1 lb. **\$5.99**
Limit 1

NZ Greenshell Mussels
Sanford 2 lbs. **\$5.99**
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Chicken Wings
3 lbs. **\$6.99**
5.35 lbs. **\$12.99**

Milk Fish
\$1.59
/LB.

Tilapia
\$1.29
/LB.

U.S. Extra Large Eggs
Dozen **\$2.39**
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Onion
79¢
/LB.

Garlic
\$2.99
/LB.

Korean Butane
Gas Limit 1 Case **\$23.99**
/CASE

Foam Cups
51 cnts. **\$2.49**

Bounty Basic
8 Rolls **\$8.99**
3 ROLLS

Bounty White
8 Rolls **\$12.99**

Suave Shampoo and Conditioner
(15 oz.) 2 Pcs. **\$3.00**

Horse Shampoo
1 qt. **\$3.00**
2 FOR

Charmin Basic
24 doubles rolls = 48 **\$14.99**

Charmin Ultra Strong
24 rolls **\$7.99**

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name
100 cnts. **\$1.50**

Diamond Foil
200 Sq. Ft. **\$7.99**

Bottled White Candle (China)
12 pcs/case **\$14.99**
/CASE

Scott Napkin
250 sheets **\$3.49**

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL			
BEEF SHANK	\$10.95	STEWING CHICKEN	\$6.95
FLANK STEAK	\$16.95	TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	\$4.99
PORK ADOBO	\$10.95	U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	\$15.99
PORK CHOP	\$11.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	\$7.95
PORK BELLY	\$11.95	BEEF OXTAIL	\$16.95
BEEF STEW	\$12.95	RIBEYE STEAK	\$17.95
BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	\$14.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	\$12.95
PORK BUTT	\$10.95		

Spam 12 oz.
LIMIT 6
ALL FLAVORS **\$2.49**

Black Label Luncheon Meat
12 oz. (Limit 6) **\$1.79**

Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage
5 oz. **69¢**

Beach Cliff Sardines
3.75 oz. **\$1.09**

Ox & Palm Corned Beef
11.5 oz. (LIMIT 6) **\$2.99**

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash
15 oz. **\$1.99**

Hormel Chili No Beans
15 oz. **\$1.99**

DM Beef Stew
15 oz. **\$1.79**

Coco Tuna
7oz. **\$1.29**
Limit 6

Master A1 Tuna
\$1.29
Limit 6

Excellent Bihon
\$1.09

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup
10.7 oz. **99¢**

Cream of Mushroom
10 3/4 oz. **\$1.29**

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn
89¢

Carnation Evaporated
12 oz. (U.S.) **\$1.39**

Dragon 100% Vegetable Oil
1 Gal. **\$9.99**

AVO Vegetable Oil
1 Gal. **\$9.99**

Fresco Vegetable Oil
1 Gal. **\$9.99**

AVO Distilled Vinegar
1 Gal. **\$3.29**

Crisco Shortening
3 lbs. **\$5.99**
Butter

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes)
1 Gal. **\$6.99**

Kikkoman
1.6 L. **\$3.99**

Lemon Powder
5.29 oz. **\$4.99**

Gold Medal Flour
5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. **\$3.29**

Korean Flour
2.5 kg. **\$3.99**

Korean BBQ Sauce
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Sugar
2 kg. **\$3.29**
Limit 2

Argo Corn Starch
Limit 3 pcs. **99¢**

Crisco Shortening
3 lbs. All Vegetable **\$6.99**

Nissin Cup Noodles
27 oz./box all flavors **\$5.99**

Enfamil Premium Lipil
16x8oz RTF **\$41.99**
PER CASE

Kraft Cool Whip
16 oz. **\$3.49**
12 oz. **\$2.49**

Philadelphia Original Cream Cheese
\$2.99

Maxwell House
34.5 oz. **\$9.99**

Coffee Mate
50 oz. **\$7.99**
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Folgers Classic Decaf
33.9 oz. **\$11.99**

Folgers
33.9 oz. **\$11.99**

Korean Flour
1 kg. **\$1.49**

Tang
22 qts. **\$7.99**

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only
\$6.99

California Pizza Kitchen
385g. **\$4.99**

MH Coffee Mix
100 sticks Limit 1 **\$8.99**
3 DAYS ONLY
MAR. 2-4, 2012

Maxim Mocha Gold Coffee Mix
100 count **\$10.99**

Real Fresh Milk (Reduced/Regular)
\$2.29
/CASE

Kool Aid
5 lbs. **\$8.99**

Coke Regular
24/Case Warm Only **\$13.99**

Shasta Cola (warm only)
12oz. **\$12.99**
/CASE

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only)
\$12.99

Pepsi 330ml. Warm Only All Flavors
\$14.99
/CASE

U.S. Pepsi 12oz. (warm only) reg. flavor
\$16.99
/CASE

Kool Aid Jammer
177ml. **\$2.99**
/BOX



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Rehabilitation Council

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'12 Second General Membership on Tuesday, March 06, 2012 at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY '12 First Meeting Minutes (12/01/11)
- V. Reports
 - a. OVR Director
 - b. Sub-Committees
 - c. SRC Chairperson
- VI. Old Business
 - a) Meeting with TSA on airline accommodations
 - b) Schedule of 2013 State Plan Forums in Rota, Tinian & Saipan
 - c) OVR Training Orientation – March 28-29, 2012
- VII. New Business
 - a. NMPASI Presentation
 - b. 2012 SRC Resource Plan
 - c. Agency Updates
- VIII. Consumer Forum
 - a) Mass Transit Update
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- I. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman
CHAIRMAN



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Playdate for new moms and their kids

M.O.T.T.s (Moms of Tiny Tots) is a fun playdate group for moms with children around 0 to 18 months old. The group will meet Tuesday, March 6, at 10:30am and then every *other* Tuesday following. It is located at Church 360, Suite 103 in the Marianas Business Plaza (the former Nauru Building). So come on out for a time of fun and fellowship with a bunch of cool ladies and their kid-dos! For more information, call Kayla at 888-2116 or visit the website at www.church360-saipan.org and look under the “Events” tab. **(PR)**

Police commissioner on Marianas Agupa!

This Saturday, March 3, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Police Commissioner Ray Mafnas to talk about the challenges and success of the CNMI police department and the investigation status on the case involving Emie Romero's killing earlier this month between 10am and 10:30am. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3FM.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona with reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola, and David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. **(PR)**

2 beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Bird Island Beach and Unai Dang-kulo and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

General farmers meeting

This is to inform all farmers that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will be hosting a general farmers meeting for election of new administrators for the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District. The term of office for the new administrators is from fiscal year 2012 to 2015. The meeting will be held at the Kagman Division of Agriculture station on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, from 10am to 11:30am. For more information or any concerns, call 256-3319 and ask for Diana Gabaldon. **(PR)**

KHS progress reports out next week

To all parents/guardians of Kagman High School: Progress reports will be issued next week Wednesday, March 7, 2012, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Teachers will distribute for all subjects. Please ask your child for their 1st – 4th period teachers' and classroom numbers. This will lessen your time on where

to go when you are getting their progress report. It will be a regular bell schedule and there will be no half-day schedule. Students will be dismissed at 2:50pm. For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840 or e-mail kagmanhs@gmail.com. **(PR)**

MHS Class of '96 reunion meeting

Marianas High School Class of '96 will be having a reunion meeting on March 9, 2012, 7pm, at the residence of Jenn Castro in Koblerville. For more information, contact Gary Villagomez at 789-0894 (cell) or 256-0252 (home). **(PR)**

DEQ brigade cleanup at Hidden Beach tomorrow

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Hidden Beach in Talafofu, Saipan tomorrow, March 3, 2012, starting at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf entrance. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. **(DEQ)**

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 2, from 8am to 3pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(USN)**



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427 • Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Plaintiff,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 03-0174

NOTICE OF AUCTION

vs.
GLOBAL TRADING, LTD., HERMAN R. GUERRERO and LUCY P. GUERRERO,
Defendants.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

vs.

BOBBIE'S AMUSEMENT CO. INC. BARBARA A. PANGELINAN,
and THE ESTATE OF JOHN DLG. PANGELINAN,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 10-0360

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Global Trading Ltd., Herman R. Guerrero and Lucy P. Guerrero in the following described, real property situated in, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 011 D 25, located in Garapan, Saipan, containing an area of 772 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Plat No. 011 D 00 dated December 14, 1970, including all existing and future improvements, appurtenances and easements on said property;

and

Lot No. H 328-7-2, located in Capitol Hill, 1,238 square meters. Lot No. H328-7-2 is more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2059/94, which is recorded as File No. 93-4304, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, March 16, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. **Deposit/Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Global Trading, Ltd., Herman R. Guerrero and Lucy P. Guerrero in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of February 2012.

/s/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

*Master Card and Visa only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).



The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Barbara A. Pangelinan n/k/a Barbara A. Yamada and the Estate of John Dlg. Pangelinan in the following described, real property situated in, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Description of Lot 012 G 21, part of Lot 012 G 03, situated in Lailau, Saipan, CNMI beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 50,202.929 meters North and 56,224.770 meters East of Mariana Islands District Coordinate Systems of 1966.

Thence N 63° 45' 20" E, 35.663 meters to Corner 2;
Thence along * the arc of curve for 14.493 meters, curve date being central angle of 02° 58' 29" a radius of 279.148 to Corner 3;
Thence N 60° 46' 51" E, 44.991 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 28° 20' 28" E, 115.871 meters to Corner 5;
Thence S 61° 39' 32" W, 95.115 meters to Corner 6;
Thence N 28° 20' 28" W, 116.640 meters to Corner 1,
The point of beginning, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, March 16, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. **Deposit/Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Bobbie's Amusement Co., Inc. Barbara A. Pangelinan n/k/a Barbara A. Yamada and the Estate of John Dlg. Pangelinan in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of February 2012.

/s/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

*Master Card and Visa only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@ptic.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, evaluation factors, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport." One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors: (1) Price, (2) Company Experience, (3) Insurance Requirements, (4) Schedule of Operation, (5) Sufficiency of workers, and (6) Financial Capability.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: 2/29/2012

TOHA SUPER MARKET

MARCH MADNESS SALE

7:00AM - 11:00 PM (MON-SUN)

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
WE ACCEPT BANK OF GUAM PACIFIC EXPRESS

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

 Lotus Rice
 50lbs.

\$25⁹⁹

 P.R. Jasmin
 Rice
 20kg.

\$26⁹⁹

 Diamond
 G Rice
 50lbs.
 LIMIT

\$28⁹⁹

 Nongshin
 Bowl
 Noodle

\$7⁹⁹
 CASE

Ichiban

\$10⁹⁹
 CASE

 King Chef
 Vegetable
 Oil 5gal

\$31⁹⁹
FAMILY BAG

Stew Chicken	\$6.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	\$5.99
Chicken Wings	\$11.99
Chicken Nuggets	\$11.99
Mackerel Fish	\$5.99
Pork Hock	\$6.99
Pork Adobo	\$9.99
Pork Bellies	\$11.99
Pork Chop	\$11.99
Pork Spareribs	\$6.99
Beef Ribeye	\$15.99
Beef Stew	\$12.99
Beef Shank	\$11.99
Beef Feet	\$7.99
Beef Shortribs	\$15.99

 Chicken Leg
 Quarter
 33lbs

\$26⁹⁹
 LIMIT

 Whole
 Chicken
 30lbs

\$37⁹⁹
 LIMIT

 Pork Spareribs
 20lbs

\$21⁹⁹

Beef Patties

\$6⁶⁹

Vega Shrimps

\$5⁷⁹
 LB.

 Mega
 Butane
 Gas

\$23⁴⁹
 CASE

PRODUCE

Onion

69¢
 LB.

Potato

79¢
 LB.

Cabbage

89¢
 LB.

Korean Pear

\$2⁹⁹
 LB.

Broccoli

\$1⁴⁹
 LB.

Celo Apple

\$3⁴⁹
 /BAG

Orange

99¢
 LB.

 Honeydew/
 Cantaloupe

99¢
 LB.

Garlic

\$1²⁵
 5 PCS.

 U.S. X-Large
 Eggs

\$2³⁹
 1 DOZ.

GROCERIES

 Ox & Palm
 Corned Beef

\$2⁹⁹
 11.5 OZ.

Spam All Kinds

\$2³⁹
 EA

 Black Label
 Luncheon

\$1⁷⁹
 EA..

 Ox & Palm
 Cooked Ham

\$1⁶⁹
 12OZ.

 Campbells
 Chicken
 Noodle

\$3⁴⁹
 16OZ.

 Libby's Vienna
 Sausage

89¢
 10 OZ.

 Master A1
 Tuna

69¢
 5 OZ.

 Coco
 Tuna

\$1³⁹
 6.5 OZ.

 Beach Cliff
 Sardines

99¢

 Ace of
 Diamond
 Tuna

\$1³⁹
 7 OZ.

 Century
 Tuna

89¢
 6.5 OZ.

 Hormel Mary
 Kitchen Corned
 Beef Hash

\$1⁹⁹
 15 OZ.

 Hormel Chili
 with Beans

\$1⁶⁹
 15 OZ.

 Hormel Chili
 No Beans

\$1⁷⁹
 15 OZ.

 Kruataia
 Coconut
 Milk

99¢
 13.5 OZ.

 Kimchi
 Base

\$6³⁹
 450 gm

 Morton
 Salt

85¢

 Dinty Moore
 Beef Stew

\$1⁶⁹
 15 OZ.

 Dinty Moore
 Meatball
 Stew

\$1⁶⁹
 15 OZ.

 Royal Spaghetti
 Noodle

\$2⁴⁹
 1 kg.

 Excellent
 Rice Stick

99¢
 227G

Tabasco

\$6⁷⁹
 12 OZ.

 Del Monte
 Spaghetti Sauce
 (all kinds)

\$1⁵⁹
 26.5oz.

 Del Monte
 Whole Corn

\$5⁴⁹
 106 oz.

 Del Monte
 Whole Corn

99¢
 15 OZ.

 Enfamil
 Infant

\$3⁹⁹
 CASE

 Kellogg's
 Frosted
 Flakes

\$3⁷⁹
 12 OZ.

 Kellogg's
 Corn
 Pops

\$3⁹⁹
 11.5 OZ.

 Kellogg's
 Apple
 Jacks

\$3⁹⁹
 8.8 OZ.

 White
 Sugar
 2kg

\$2⁷⁹
 2 KG.

 Argo
 Corn
 Starch

99¢
 1 LB.

 Gold
 Medal
 Flour

\$3⁴⁹
 5 LBS.

 Pancake
 Mix

\$2⁷⁹
 37.02 OZ.

 Duncan Hines
 Cake Mix

\$1⁹⁹
 18.25 OZ.

 Vlasic Sliced
 Dill Pickle

\$5⁹⁹
 1 GAL.

 Foremost
 Milk

\$20⁴⁹
 CASE

 Tang
 Orange

\$8⁹⁹
 22 QTS.

Kool-Aid

\$7⁹⁹
 34 QTS.

 Rota
 Water

\$5⁴⁹
 500 ML

 Nester
 Lemon

\$5⁴⁹
 45 OZ.

 Folgers
 Coffee

\$11⁹⁹
 33.3 OZ.

 Maxwell
 Coffee
 Mix

\$7⁹⁹
 100CT.

 Best Food
 Mayonnaise

\$15⁴⁹
 1 GAL.

GB Mayonnaise

\$9⁶⁹
 1 GAL.

 Quaker Oats
 (Oatmeal)

\$4⁴⁹
 42 OZ.

 Whole
 Chicken
 Can

\$5⁹⁹
 50 OZ.

 Kikkoman
 Soy Sauce

\$3⁹⁹

 Real
 Lemon
 Juice

\$3³⁹
 32 OZ.

 Dragon
 Vegetable
 Oil

\$9⁴⁹
 1 GAL.

 Fresco
 Vegetable

\$9⁴⁹
 1 GAL.

 DelMonte
 Ketchup

\$4⁶⁹
 2.64 OZ.

 HappyTime
 Assorted
 Cookies

\$6⁴⁹

 Golden State
 Vinegar

\$3⁹⁹
 2.1 GAL.

FROZEN

 Bar S Jumbo
 Franks

\$1¹⁹

Millers Sausage

\$16⁹⁹

Bar S Ham

\$18⁹⁹
 10 LBS.

Bar S Bacon

\$3²⁹

 Ground
 Beef

\$10⁹⁹
 5 LBS.

 Chamorro
 Sausage

\$4⁴⁹
 10 LBS.

 Brown Serve
 Sausage

\$1⁶⁹

Ground Pork

\$22⁴⁹
 10 LBS.

Tilapia

\$1⁰⁹
 /LB.

 Milk
 Fish

\$1⁴⁹
 /LB.

 Green Shell
 Mussels

\$5⁹⁹
 2 LBS.

NON-FOOD

 Clorox
 Regular

\$3⁴⁹
 92 OZ.

Purex

\$4⁴⁹
 50 OZ.

Gain Liquid

\$6⁴⁹
 50 OZ.

 Gain Powder
 120 loads

\$10⁹⁹
 100 OZ.

Joy Ultra

\$1⁴⁹
 12.5 OZ.

Huggies Big

\$6⁹⁹
 90 OZ.

Luvs Big

\$18⁹⁹
 BOX

Luvs Big

\$17⁴⁹
 BOX

 Drypers
 Convenient

\$5⁷⁵

 Dawn Dishwashing
 Soap

\$8⁹⁹
 90 OZ.

 Suave Shampoo &
 Conditioner

\$3⁰⁰
 2 for

 Safe Guard
 Bar-Soap

79¢
 135 g.

 Head &
 Shoulders

\$5⁷⁵
 EA. 14 OZ.

 Bounty Paper
 Towel

\$19⁹⁹
 15 ROLLS

 Charmin Ultra
 Strong Tissue

\$6⁹⁹
 24 ROLLS

 Foam
 Plates

\$3²⁹
 50 CT

 Diamond
 Aluminum Foil

\$7⁹⁹
 125 CT

 Diamond
 Aluminum Foil

\$6⁹⁹
 200SQ.FT.

Located in San Antonio (formerly Sunleader Supermarket) ONE STOP SHOP WITH THE LOWEST PRICES ON ISLAND!



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	March 2, 2012	POSITION:	Cook
CLOSE DATE:	March 9, 2012	SALARY:	\$5.05-\$6.00/hr.
Qualifications:	High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years culinary/Chinese cuisine experience required. Formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.		

OPEN DATE:	March 2, 2012	POSITION:	Steward
CLOSE DATE:	March 9, 2012	SALARY:	\$5.05/hr.
Qualifications:	High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years in food service preferred.		

OPEN DATE:	March 2, 2012	POSITION:	Gym & Spa Attendant
CLOSE DATE:	March 9, 2012	SALARY:	\$5.05/hr.
Qualifications:	High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a health club or spa preferred.		

OPEN DATE:	March 2, 2012	POSITION:	Administrative Supervisor/ Water Park
CLOSE DATE:	March 9, 2012	SALARY:	\$5.05-\$6.00/hr.
Qualifications:	High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in hotel outlet operations required. Water Park or Amusement Park management/supervision experience highly preferred.		

OPEN DATE:	March 2, 2012	POSITION:	Cashier/Water Park
CLOSE DATE:	March 9, 2012	SALARY:	\$5.05/hr.
Qualifications:	High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must have strong accounting and money handling skills. Must show strong integrity, honesty and morality.		

OPEN DATE:	March 2, 2012	POSITION:	Kids College Staff/Water Park
CLOSE DATE:	March 9, 2012	SALARY:	\$5.05/hr.
Qualifications:	High school graduate or equivalent required. Must enjoy and be comfortable with young children.		

OPEN DATE:	March 2, 2012	POSITION:	Prim/Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE:	March 9, 2012	SALARY:	\$5.05/hr.
Qualifications:	High school graduate or equivalent required. First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.		

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

Nation

12 killed as violent storms ravage Midwest, South

HARRISBURG, Ill. (AP)—A pre-dawn twister flattened entire blocks of homes in a small Illinois town Wednesday as violent storms ravaged the Midwest and South, killing at least 12 people in three states.

Winds also ripped through the country music mecca of Branson, Mo., damaging some of the city’s famous theaters just days before the start of the busy tourist season.

The tornado that blasted Harrisburg in southern Illinois, killing six, was an EF4, the second-highest rating given to twisters based on damage. Scientists said it was 200 yards wide with winds up to 170 mph.

By midday, townspeople in the community of 9,000 were sorting through piles of debris and remembering their dead while the winds still howled around them.

Not long after the storm, Darrell Osman raced to his mother’s home, arriving just in time to speak to her before she was taken to a hospital with a head injury, a severe cut to her neck and a broken arm and leg.

“She was conscious. I wouldn’t say she was coherent. There were more mumbles than anything,” he said. “She knew we were there.”

Mary Osman died a short time later. The twister that raked Branson seemed to hopscotch up the city’s main roadway, moving from side to side.

As sirens blared, Derrick Washington stepped out of his motel room just long enough to see a greenish-purple sky. Then he heard the twister roar.

“Every time the tornado hit a building, you could see it exploding,” he said.

At least 37 people were reported hurt, but most suffered only cuts and bruises. After the start of Branson’s peak season in mid-March, up to 60,000 visitors would have been in hotels on any given day.

On to Super Tuesday: Santorum, Romney battle on

WASHINGTON (AP)—A victorious Mitt Romney and runner-up Rick Santorum both claimed satisfaction from the close Michigan primary on Wednesday as they swiftly shifted their duel for the Republican presidential nomination to Ohio and the rest of next week’s delegate-rich Super Tuesday contests.

Campaigning in Bexley, Ohio, Romney promised “more jobs, less debt and a smaller government” if he wins the nomination and defeats President Barack Obama in the fall.


“Interestingly, the people who said that the economy and jobs were their No. 1 issue, they voted for me, overwhelmingly” in the Michigan primary, he said.

Santorum saw the events of the previous 24 hours differently, having won half of the 30 delegates in his rival’s home state primary even though he lost the popular vote. “We had a much better night in Michigan than maybe was first reported,” he said, in Tennessee.

While Santorum contended the race to pick an opponent for Democrat Obama was down to two men, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul had other ideas as they set their own priorities for the 10 Super Tuesday contests.

That made Washington’s caucuses on Saturday something of a campaign way-station, worth 40 delegates but squeezed in between two big primary nights.

The pattern of the candidates’ schedules underscored a shift in the nature of the race, away from one-or-two-state nights where political momentum counted for much, and into a period of multiple contests, where the object is to pile up delegates in pursuit of the 1,144 needed to win the nomination at the party convention this summer in Tampa, Fla.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ROTA BIRD SANCTUARY ROAD PAVING
ITB12-GOV-043

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, “Commonwealth”) are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Bird Sanctuary Road Paving on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located on Middle Road, Garapan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined is required for a set of the project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospective bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

There will be a Pre-bid conference for this project on Monday, March 26, 2012, 2:00 p.m., Saipan local time at the Governor’s Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding the Invitation to Bid (ITB) must be addressed and submitted in writing to Mr. Roy P. Reyes, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or fax to (670) 664-2408, no later than Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB12-GOV-043-Rota Bird Sanctuary Road Paving**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 3, 2012. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, April 3, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 3, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 10, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.


Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 12, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened and read at 11:00 a.m. ChST, April 3, 2012.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred (300) calendar days. The daily liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by three hundred (300) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid in the best interests of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

ADDENDUM NO. 1
02/29/2012
ITB12-GOV-040
Roof Replacement, Building A, Northern Marianas College
As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan

The previously advertised notice, Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) for the **“Roof Replacement, Building A, Northern Marianas College, As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan”** has been amended. The specific amendment is to introduce two (2) sheets of drawings, provide answers to RFI No. 01, revise bid schedule/proposal and extend bid submission deadline. The following amendments are as follows:

1. Introduce two drawings indicated as “Drawings Sheet A-1.2” & “A-1.4”
2. Request for Information (RFI) No. 01 will be provided to prospect contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting held February 14, 2012
3. Revise bid schedule and bid proposal will also be provided in the same manner
4. Bid submission deadline is hereby extended to 10:00 AM ChST, March 13, 2012 originally 10:00 AM, March 06, 2012

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Thursday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408.

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing
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Been dependent
on the income of another
family member but no
longer supported by that
income and are you
unemployed or underemployed
and experiencing difficulty
obtaining or upgrading
employment?

If you answer "Yes" to all of these questions, contact WIA at (670) 664-1704/5, 7 & 8 (Saipan), (670) 433-1700 (Tinian), or (670) 532-1701 (Rota).

You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

Dislocated Worker Funding Program

- U.S. Citizen or Registered Alien
- Meet Selective Service Requirements
- Have received the required Eligibility for services
- Must be 18 years or older

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of

termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;

2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710

Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701

Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

World

NKorea says it will halt some nuclear activities

WASHINGTON (AP)—North Korea raised hopes Wednesday for a major easing in nuclear tensions under its youthful new leader, agreeing to suspend uranium enrichment at a major facility and refrain from missile and nuclear tests in exchange for a mountain of critically needed U.S. food aid.

It was only a preliminary step but a necessary one to restart broader six-nation negotiations that would lay down terms for what the North could get in return for abandoning its nuclear weapons program. Pyongyang pulled out of those talks in 2009 and seemingly has viewed the nuclear program as key to the survival of its dynastic, communist regime, now entering its third generation.

The announcement, just over two months after the death of longtime ruler Kim Jong Il, opened a door for the secretive government under his untested youngest son, Kim Jong Un, to improve ties with the United States and win critically needed aid and international acceptance.

It also opened the way for international inspections for the North's nuclear program, which has gone unmonitored for years.

Secretary of State Hillary

Rodham Clinton said the agreement, announced at separate but simultaneous statements by the longtime adversaries, was a modest step but also "a reminder that the world is transforming around us."

"We, of course, will be watching closely and judging North Korea's new leaders by their actions," Clinton told a congressional hearing.

The U.S. has accused North

Syria threatens to 'cleanse' rebel area in Homs

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian regime showed a new determination Wednesday to crush its opponents, vowing to "cleanse" a rebel-held district in the besieged central city of Homs after nearly four weeks of shelling.

Government troops massed outside the embattled neighborhood of Baba Amr, raising fears among activists of an imminent ground invasion that could endanger thousands of residents, as well as two trapped Western journalists, who have been under heavy bombardment.

A Spanish journalist who had been stuck in the area escaped Wednesday to Lebanon, the second foreign reporter to do so since a government rocket attack last week killed two of his colleagues and

Korea of reneging on past nuclear commitments. An accord under the six-party talks collapsed in 2008 when Pyongyang refused to abide by verification that U.S. diplomats claimed had been agreed upon.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry's statement, issued by the state-run news agency, said the North had agreed to the nuclear moratoriums and U.N. inspectors "with a view to main-

wounded two others.

The fate of the foreign journalists has drawn attention to Homs, which has emerged as a key battleground between government forces and those seeking to end the regime of authoritarian President Bashar Assad.

The government's increasingly bloody attempts to put down the 11-month uprising have fueled mounting international criticism.

The Obama administration summoned Syria's senior envoy in the U.S., Zuheir Jabbour, over the Homs offensive.

The State Department's top diplomat for the Mideast, Jeffrey Feltman, expressed his "outrage over the monthlong campaign of brutality and indiscriminate shelling" in Homs,

taining positive atmosphere" for the U.S.-North Korea talks.

North Korea faces tough U.N. sanctions that were tightened in 2009 when it conducted its second nuclear test and fired a long-range rocket. In late 2010, it unveiled a uranium enrichment facility that could give North Korea a second route to manufacture nuclear weapons in addition to its existing plutonium-based program.

according to a statement.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told members of Congress on Tuesday that Assad could be considered a war criminal.

U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said Syria had not yet agreed to allow her to enter the country. Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, called that refusal "shameful."

"Rather than meeting the needs of its people, the barbaric Syrian government is preparing its final assault on the city of Homs," Rice said in a statement. "Meanwhile, food shortages are reported to be so severe that people, especially children, will soon start dying of hunger."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

UK warns Argentina regarding the Falklands

LONDON (AP)—The British government summoned Argentina's top diplomat to the Foreign Office on Wednesday to explain his country's decision to ask 20 leading companies to stop importing British products and supplies because of the dispute over the Falkland Islands. Argentine Industry Minister Debora Giorgi told the companies Tuesday they should replace British imports with products from other nations as Argentina stepped up its attempt to pressure London to negotiate about the sovereignty of the islands. Tensions are rising ahead of the anniversary of the brief war between Argentina and Britain over the Falklands, which began on April 2, 1982, and saw more than 900 people die.

US offers Philippines help to join trade pact

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The United States says it is ready to help the Philippines meet membership requirements for a Pacific free trade pact that the U.S. and eight other countries are negotiating. The Obama administration has made the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact a key plank of greater engagement in Asia. It aims to complete negotiations this year on the text of the pact with Chile, New Zealand, Brunei, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Peru. Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis said Wednesday that he updated Philippine officials on ongoing negotiations.

In protest, Vietnam says China assaulted fishermen

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has protested China for reportedly assaulting its fishermen in disputed waters in the South China Sea. Thursday's Vietnam News quotes Foreign Ministry spokesman Luong Thanh Nghi as saying Chinese action "seriously infringed" upon Vietnam's sovereignty and "gravely threatened lives and property." The newspaper says China used force to threaten 11 Vietnamese fishermen on a vessel on Feb. 22 and prevented them from entering the Paracel islands to avoid a storm. The paper also says Chinese forces were reported to have assaulted the fishermen and tried to take their property.

THIRD YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

† *Verena Marie
Tudela Cabrera*

October 26, 1990 – March 11, 2009

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved "Verena Marie" unto eternal life.

Mass of intentions is being offered each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. beginning March 03 through March 11, 2012.

Please join us in prayers.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Thank You

The Family

Fifth Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of



Ernie Teigita Dela Cruz

We, the family invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we remember the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Masses will be offered at San Vicente Church beginning on March 4, 2012 through March 11, 2012 at 6:00 PM. On Monday, March 12, 2012 Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 AM followed by breakfast at San Vicente Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Thank You

Velma Dela Cruz, Children and Family

Science & Technology

Google to dig deeper into users' lives

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—If you're amazed—and maybe even a little alarmed—about how much Google seems to know about you, brace yourself. Beginning Thursday, Google will operate under a streamlined privacy policy that enables the Internet's most powerful company to dig even deeper into the lives of its more than 1 billion users.

Google says the changes will make it easier for consumers to understand how it collects personal information, and allow the company to create more helpful and compelling services. Critics, including most of the country's state attorneys general and a top regulator in Europe, argue that Google is trampling on people's privacy rights in its relentless drive to sell more ads.

Here's a look at some of the key issues to consider as Google tries to learn about you.

Q: How will Google's privacy changes affect users?

A: Google Inc. is combining more than 60 different privacy policies so it will be able to throw all the data it gathers about each of its logged-in users into personal dossiers. The information Google learns about you while you enter requests into its search engine can be culled to suggest videos to watch when you visit the company's YouTube site.

Users who write a memo on Google's online word processing program, Docs, might be alerted to the misspelling of the name of a friend or co-worker a user has communicated with on Google's Gmail. The new policy pools information from all Google-operated services, empowering the company to connect the dots from one service to the next.

Q: Why is Google making these changes?

A: The company, based in Mountain View, Calif., says it is striving for a "beautifully simple, intuitive user experience across Google." What Google hasn't spent much time talking about is how being able to draw more revealing profiles about its users will help sell advertising—the main source of its \$38 billion in annual revenue.

Q: Is there a way to prevent Google from combining the personal data it collects from all its services?

A: No, not if you're a registered user of Gmail, Google Plus, YouTube, or other Google products. But you can minimize the data Google gathers. For starters, make sure you aren't logged into one of Google's services when you're using Google's search engine, watching a YouTube video or perusing pictures on Picasa. You can get a broad overview of what Google knows about

you at <http://www.google.com/dashboard>, where a Google account login is required. Google also offers the option to delete users' history of search activity.

It's important to keep in mind that Google can still track you even when you're not logged in to one of its services. But the information isn't quite as revealing because Google doesn't track you by name, only through a numeric Internet address attached to your computer or an alphanumeric string attached to your Web browser.

Q: Are all Google services covered by the privacy policy?

A: No, a few products, such as Google's Chrome Web browser and mobile payment processor Wallet, will still be governed by separate privacy policies.

Q: Is Google's new privacy policy legal?

A: The company has no doubt about it. That's why it's repeatedly rebuffed pleas to delay the changes since announcing the planned revisions five weeks ago. But privacy activists and even some legal authorities have several concerns.

Earlier this week, the French regulatory agency CNIL warned Google CEO Larry Page that the new policy ap-

pears to violate the European Union's strict data-protection rules. Last week, 36 attorneys general in the U.S. and its territories derided the new policy as an "invasion of privacy" in a letter to Page.

One of the major gripes is that registered Google users aren't being given an option to consent to, or reject, the changes, given that they developed their dependence on the services under different rules. In particular, people who bought smartphones running on Google's Android software, and signed two-year contracts to use the devices, may have a tough time avoiding the new privacy policy.

Q: What regulatory power do government agencies have to change or amend the privacy changes?

A: The U.S. Federal Trade Commission gained greater oversight over Google's handling of personal information as part of a settlement reached last year. Google submitted to the agreement after exposing its users email contacts when it launched a now-defunct social networking service called Buzz in 2010. The consent order requires Google's handling of personal information to be audited every other year and forbids misleading or deceptive privacy changes.

Science Matters

Monster eats asteroids

The Chandra orbiting telescope has revealed why the center of our galaxy, the Milky Way, sends out regular bursts of X-rays.



Microsoft unveils Windows 8 for consumer testing

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Microsoft on Wednesday let consumers start trying out its upcoming touch-based Windows 8 operating system, which aims to power a new wave of computer tablets and traditional PCs designed to counter Apple's big gains in the market through its Macs and iPads.

The test "beta" version of the revamped system was introduced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, the planet's largest cell phone trade show, and borrows some of the look of Microsoft's Windows Phone 7 software for Windows 8.

Windows 8 doesn't have the traditional "Start" menu, and applications are spread across a mosaic of tiles in a design Microsoft calls "Metro" — seen as an attempt by the company as a scramble to preserve its market share. And executives said it powers up on PCs in eight seconds, much faster than the previous version.

The tiles, which resemble road signs, can be navigated with a finger swipe on the

screen or with a keyboard and mouse. But those testing out the new operating system won't be able to try out the finger swiping unless they already have systems enabled for touch use, and the system isn't expected to make its official debut until September or October.

Microsoft executives in Barcelona showed off how users can use their fingertips to swipe in and out of applications, and tilt upright computer screens to a flat position so they can be used as two-person gaming boards or big drawing tablets. A slim laptop had a hinge allowing it to be turned inside out so it could be used as a tablet instead.

The test version was downloaded by people from more than 70 countries as Microsoft gave its presentation about Windows 8, but the company didn't immediately disclose the number of downloads. The software can be downloaded at <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/consumer-preview>.

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Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10		

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Dr. Seuss' heaviest environmentally themed tale gets adapted for young filmgoers with this computer-animated 3-D feature from Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment.

Project X

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20		

Thomas Mann, Jonathan Brown
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
The Hangover's Todd Phillips produces this top-secret comedy from writers Matt Drake and Michael Bacall, with helming duties handled by commercial director Nima Nourizadeh.

Act of Valor

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00		

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez
Adventure, Action • Rated R

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05		

Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido
Action • Rated PG 13

This Means War

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	7:25		

Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15		

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
Adventure • Rated PG

Gone

Friday		7:30		
Saturday	1:30	7:30		
Sunday	1:30	7:30		
Monday thru Thursday	7:30			

Amanda Seyfried, Sebastian Stan
Suspense, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Safe House

Friday		4:30	9:50
Saturday		4:30	9:50
Sunday		4:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds
Spy film, Thriller • Rated R

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Life & Style

Father is teaching son in the school of infidelity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 18 years. In that time my husband has been unfaithful twice. Last week I was going through his cellphone and noticed from his emails that he had registered on a dating service and was exchanging photos with four women. I threw him out of the house.



Dear Abby

What really upsets me is my 17-year-old son knew about the affairs and thinks it's perfectly normal for his dad to have female "friends" while we were still living together. I don't like what my soon-to-be-ex did to me, and I don't want my son thinking it's OK to start looking while you're still married.

My son finds ways to excuse his father's behavior. How can I make him understand that looking for other partners while you're married is being unfaithful?

TEXAS WIFE WHO'S HAD IT

DEAR HAD IT: That may not be easy. Your husband, by making your son his co-conspirator ("It'll just be between us guys"), has made him a member of the "boys club" and cliqued you out. Has your son not seen how painful this has been for you? Your almost ex-husband is a terrible role model. When your son follows in Dad's footsteps—and there is every reason to believe he will—he will never have a successful marriage of his own.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have been dating for four years. In the beginning, we'd split our visits between her house and mine because we live 100 miles apart.

Two years ago she stopped wanting me to come to her house. She'd say it was dirty or that she didn't want anyone there. When we plan to have me go there, the day arrives and she says she wants to break up with me because I insist on visiting her. Over the past year and a half, I have been to her place only three times. She hemmed and hawed but finally allowed it.

She claims there's no reason she's acting this way, that I'm crazy and people are putting ideas in my head. I tell her it's her behavior that makes me think she's hiding something. What should I do?

SUSPICIOUS IN BUFFALO

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Something strange IS going on. A drastic change in someone's behavior is legitimate cause for concern. Clearly your girlfriend has a secret. She may be seeing someone or there's something else she doesn't want you to see. You are overdue in getting to the bottom of it, so stop allowing her to put you on the defensive, even if it means ending the relationship.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I received a wedding gift in the form of a donation to a religious organization in honor of our nuptials. I am strongly opposed to this organization because it excludes women from its primary mission due to beliefs I do not share. Having found this gesture to be offensive, how do I acknowledge this "gift"?

NOT IN MY NAME

DEAR NOT IN MY NAME: What a peculiar gift for a wedding. Usually couples receive an item for which they registered, or something they can use or enjoy together. It appears that rather than give you a gift, your guest gave himself/herself a tax deduction.

For the sake of good manners, write the person a short note saying, "Thank you for sharing our special day with us."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is 70 and I'm 68. We have been married for two years. His previous wife was 22 years younger than him, and he seems to delight in bringing the age thing up. I feel so old and insecure. Have you any words of wisdom to offer me?

THE OLD LADY

DEAR LADY: Two can play your husband's game. The next time he mentions it, tell him the reason she's his "ex" is that he was too old for her—which is why this time he wised up and picked on somebody "his own size."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

James Murdoch quits role at UK paper branch

LONDON (AP)—James Murdoch, his credibility diminished and his future at the helm of his father's media empire in doubt, stepped down Wednesday as executive chairman of News International, the troubled British newspaper subsidiary embroiled in a deepening phone hacking scandal.

The move—which the company cast as allowing Rupert Murdoch's younger son to focus on News Corp.'s international TV holdings—plucks the one-time heir apparent out of the cross-hairs of the crisis that has spurred judicial and police inquiries and claimed the careers of several top executives.

"No one is surprised at this development," said Douglas McCabe, a media analyst at Enders Analysis. "The view is that James' association with News International was becoming problematic and this is an attempt to move him away from it."

The 39-year-old James will remain deputy chief operating officer of News Corp., and experts said removing him from the firestorm over News International doesn't just help with damage control. It also leaves the embattled executive in a key position at the company and places him back into the role of TV executive, where he has shone in the past.

News Corp. shares set a 52-week high in New York after the news broke, rising 2.7 percent to \$20.35 a share as Wall Street took the news as a sign that the company's widely respected president and chief operating officer, Chase Carey, would have more say in the company than James, whose title as deputy COO is increasingly seen as symbolic.

Speculation over how long James Murdoch would last at the helm of News International had been rampant since allegations of widespread phone

hacking at the News of the World exploded in July.

A wave of bad publicity and the loss of advertising revenue ultimately led Rupert Murdoch to shut down the 168-year-old tabloid News of the World. Murdoch also withdrew his \$12 billion bid to take full control of satellite broadcaster BSkyB—a major setback to his plans for expansion in Britain.

He then lost a series of trusted lieutenants with the resignation of News International's chief executive, Rebekah Brooks, and Les Hinton, CEO of Dow Jones & Co., the News Corp. subsidiary that publishes The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones Newswires.

James Murdoch found his credibility publicly challenged at a parliamentary inquiry into the scandal. But as more damaging

information came to light, the younger Murdoch stayed put.

Rupert Murdoch expressed full support for his son even as James Murdoch's testimony to lawmakers—and fitness as an executive—were repeatedly called into question.

James Murdoch twice had to change his story about what he knew when in the phone-hacking scandal. In testimony before Parliament last year, he insisted he was never shown a critical piece of evidence that suggested illegal practices went much further than his company was admitting at the time.

Contradicted by his former top aides, James Murdoch later had to return to Parliament to modify his testimony. He was told about the evidence, he acknowledged, but said he wasn't told why it was important.



Murdoch

Lady Gaga at Harvard, launches youth foundation

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Pop star Lady Gaga descended on Harvard University with some powerful friends Wednesday to launch her new foundation aimed at empowering young people.

The singer was joined by Oprah Winfrey, spiritual leader Deepak Chopra, and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to kick off the Born This Way Foundation that Gaga's mother and inspiration will help steer.

Gaga spoke to more than 1,100 students from several states, faculty and invited guests at Harvard, urging the young audience to "challenge meanness and cruelty."

"I believe that if you have revolutionary potential, you must make the world a better place and use it," she said.

She reminded them that there is no law to make people be kind to one another and added: "I wish there was because, you know, I'd be chained naked to a fence somewhere trying to pass it."

Late Wednesday, Gaga's representative said the singer has



AP

Lady Gaga poses for a portrait in her hotel suite prior to an event at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Wednesday Feb. 29, 2012. Gaga launched her "Born this Way" foundation at Harvard.

made a \$1.2 million personal contribution to the foundation, named after her 2011 album and hit song. The song promotes self-empowerment and has become an anthem for gay pride.

Winfrey said she supports the foundation because its message aligns with many of her core beliefs, including kindness, compassion, empowerment and acceptance. The famous talk-show host interviewed the singer on stage about the foundation.

Gaga, who has said she was the victim of bullying as a teenager, said the idea for the foundation grew out of the dialogue created after "Born This Way" was released. She said she received an onslaught of letters and emails from people who said such things as, "I want there to be more tolerance in the universe. I want there to be more acceptance."

Gaga said her mother, Cynthia Germanotta, inspired her to start the foundation. Germanotta will serve as its president.

"She is the sole reason that I am here today. She has always believed in me. She has always been my support, and she makes

me want to inject that sense of family and support into the world," Gaga said.

The singer gave few specifics about how the foundation will operate.

She said the foundation is working with a new media agency to create a social media environment that fosters the foundation's goals.

She said the "Born Brave Bus" will follow her tour bus around the country and will "welcome anyone from any walk of life" to "talk about love, acceptance, kindness" and other goals of the foundation.

"I want this to be an organization where you all feel involved," she said.

Gaga, 25, known for her attention-getting fashion, wore a sleek, black backless dress, platform shoes and a tall black hat.

She repeatedly told the crowd that she does not have the answers for how to stop bullying and prevent violence. She urged students to go back to their communities and do "simple acts of kindness" to help foster acceptance, tolerance and individuality.

Pair of 'Idol' semifinalists perform same song

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There wasn't only one performance of Adele's "One and Only" on "American Idol."

Elise Testone, the soulful 28-year-old teacher from Charleston, South Carolina, and Jen Hirsh, the soaring 25-year-old singer from Agoura Hills, California, both tackled the same jazzy Adele tune during Wednesday's performances from the top 12 female semifinalists on the Fox singing contest—and both were lauded by the judges for their take on the

Grammy darling.

Hirsh was the first to perform "One and Only," compelling Randy Jackson to note that she was "one of the greatest singers in the competition this year." Testone was seated behind a piano when she closed the show with her rendition, prompting Jackson to repeat himself. He told Testone she has "one of the best voices in the competition."

"For me, you're one of the best singers, maybe the best singer here," Jennifer Lopez echoed to Testone.

Several other contestants also felt the love from the panel, including 26-year-old disc jockey Erika Van Pelt of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, with Heart's "What About Love," 18-year-old Hollie Cavanaugh of McKinney, Texas, with Christina Aguilera's "Reflection," and 16-year-old shopaholic Jessica Sanchez of San Diego with "Love You I Do" from "Dreamgirls."

"Your voice is perfect," Steven Tyler told Sanchez. "Your pitch is perfect."

Jackson called Skylar Laine, the 18-year-old country diva-in-training from Brandon, Mississippi, a "rocking country girl" after she effortlessly strutted across the stage during Faces' "Stay With Me," while Jennifer Lopez blamed Shannon Magrane, a 16-year-old student from Tampa, Florida, for giving her "the goosies" after Chris Rice's "Go Light Your World."

"You sing with such passion for a 16-year-old," Lopez beamed.

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Masked Kobe leads Lakers' blowout of Timberwolves



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant could be excused for harboring a little grudge after Dwyane Wade broke his nose and gave him a concussion with a hard foul in the All-Star game, of all places.

Instead, Bryant professes nothing but love his fellow U.S. Olympian, even when the injuries required him to wear a sweaty protective mask in his first game back.

And if Bryant had any hidden frustration about the whole situation, he probably took it out on the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Bryant had 31 points, seven rebounds and eight assists while playing in that uncomfortable mask, and Los Angeles returned from the All-Star break with its 17th consecutive win over the Timberwolves, 104-85 on Wednesday night.

Bryant didn't miss a game after Wade fouled him awkwardly from behind, giving Kobe the first concussion of his athletic career. After getting late clearance from his neurologist, the NBA's leading scorer slipped on a Richard Hamilton-style mask that quickly turned into "a sauna on my face," but didn't slow him at all.

"It happens," Bryant said. "You just have to deal with it and try to heal up as quickly as you possibly can, and get back on the court."

Although Wade and his Miami Heat visit Staples Center this weekend, Bryant is more interested in Friday's visit from the Sacramento Kings. He'll keep wearing the mask until his nose is less tender—but anybody expecting pay-back for Wade on Sunday is foolish, he insists.

"It was very simple: He didn't mean to do it," Bryant said. "He's not that kind of person. ... He's a nicer guy than I am, to be honest with you. He's just not the type of person who would do something like that (on purpose)."

Bryant has played through countless nagging injuries in the last few years as the prep-to-pro star hits his mid-30s. After all, he has been playing with a torn ligament in his right wrist since the season began.

The foul left Bryant with headaches, nausea and neck pain on his way out of Orlando.

"A lot of pressure," Bryant said. "It just feels like constant throbbing at the base of my head and neck."

He made significant progress in the previous 24 hours and passed every test for concussion problems from his neurologist, Dr. Vern Williams, who declared him symptom-free before the game.

"I understand the severity of the situation," Bryant said. "You have to go through those steps. It's part of the job. ... It's definitely different. In that sense, you're pretty helpless. You just



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, puts up a shot as Minnesota Timberwolves forward Michael Beasley defends during the second half of their NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, in Los Angeles.

have to be patient and hope for the best."

Bryant hit his first two jumpers in the opening minutes and finished the first quarter with 10 points. He also received several brief massages on the bench from the Lakers' physical therapist, both before and after scoring 12 points in the third quarter while Los Angeles pulled away. He even made 9 of 10 free throws with the mask.

Lakers coach Mike Brown felt confident enough in Bryant's health to put him back in the game with the Lakers' other four starters in the closing minutes when Minnesota chiseled the lead below 20 points.

"Kobe is a special human being," Brown said. "I don't have answers for him. I don't know what he's made of. He's just different. His body reacts differently."

Pau Gasol scored 15 points and Andrew Bynum had 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Lakers, who improved to 15-1 at home since losing their Christmas opener.

Michael Beasley and Martell Webster scored 14 points apiece as the Timberwolves played the middle game of a back-to-back-to-back set without Kevin Love, who sat out with an apparent case of the flu.

"From the start, they played harder than us," Beasley said. "They wanted it more than we did. They were playing physical from the beginning. It got us out of our game, and we couldn't fight back."

Minnesota couldn't duplicate its stellar shooting in an impressive win over the Clippers one night earlier, going 5 for 20 in the decisive third quarter of the Wolves' second loss in their last seven games.

Rookie forward Derrick Wil-

liams, from nearby La Mirada, Calif., had 10 points while taking Love's starting spot for Minnesota, which finishes its three-night odyssey on Thursday in Phoenix. Timberwolves coach Rick Adelman said he decided to rest Love in hopes he'll be ready to play in the third game of the set.

Los Angeles led by 15 in the first quarter, but Minnesota got back within 50-44 at halftime. The Lakers gradually took control while outscoring the Wolves 33-15 in the third quarter, led by Bryant's scoring and Gasol's 10 points after a quiet first half.

Bulls 96, Spurs 89

In San Antonio, Chicago's Derrick Rose scored 29 points as the Bulls stayed on a roll and cooled off the streaking San Antonio Spurs in a clash of NBA divisional leaders.

Rose shook off a collision with Tony Parker early that kept the reigning MVP on the floor clutching his right knee for several minutes. But he never left the game and the Bulls became just the second team to win in San Antonio this season.

Joakim Noah added 10 points and 13 rebounds for Chicago, which has won 11 of 13 and nudged half a game past Miami for first place in the Eastern Conference.

Gary Neal's 21 points led the Spurs, who floundered late and had its homecoming spoiled after going 8-1 during the most successful nine-game road trip in NBA history.

Thunder 92, 76ers 88

In Philadelphia, Kevin Durant scored some key late points to steer Oklahoma City past Philadelphia in another match of divisional leaders.

Coming off his MVP per-

formance in the All-Star game, Durant struggled a bit. The two-time scoring champion shot 7 of 18. But he made key baskets and free throws and added a clutch steal late in the game as the Thunder overcame a seven-point fourth-quarter deficit.

He finished with 23 points while Russell Westbrook had 22 points and 13 rebounds as the NBA leaders won their sixth straight game.

Andre Iguodala and Jrue Holiday each had 18 points for the 76ers.

Grizzlies 96, Mavericks 85

In Memphis, Marc Gasol had 22 points and 11 rebounds in Memphis' win over Dallas.

Mike Conley added 20 points and 10 assists for the Grizzlies, who capitalized on the absence of Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki. The German scored only one point before leaving the game early in the second quarter with lower back tightness.

Jason Terry's 18 points led the defending champion Mavericks, who lost their third straight.

Nuggets 104, Trail Blazers 95

In Denver, Ty Lawson had 18 points and nine assists after missing two games with a sprained ankle, helping Denver down Portland.

Kenneth Faried scored 13 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Nuggets.

Jamal Crawford had 21 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have lost 16 of the past 17 away to Denver.

Jazz 104, Rockets 83

In Salt Lake City, C.J. Miles scored a season-high 27 points as

Utah halted a four-game losing skid and Houston's four-game winning streak.

Devin Harris added 19 points for the Jazz before leaving late in the game with nausea. Utah won despite missing injured starters Paul Millsap and Raja Bell.

Luis Scola led Houston with 18 points.

Warriors 85, Hawks 82

In Atlanta, David Lee scored 22 points, including the go-ahead basket with 30 seconds remaining, as Golden State answered a late comeback by Atlanta.

The Warriors kept the lead until Zaza Pachulia scored with 52 seconds remaining for a 78-78 tie. Lee then drove past Pachulia to score with 30 seconds remaining to give the lead back to Golden State.

Donta Ellis had 24 points and eight assists, while Lee had 12 rebounds for a double-double.

Joe Johnson, returning from a knee injury, led Atlanta with 18 points. The Hawks were held to a season-low 34.1 percent shooting from the field.

Knicks 120, Cavaliers 103

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points as New York turned around the game with its reserves to beat Cleveland.

Jeremy Lin had 19 points and 13 assists but it was bench player Steve Novak who had the biggest impact as the Knicks turned a 17-point deficit into an easy win, outscoring the Cavaliers 71-42 in the second half.

New York didn't lead until Novak (17 points) made consecutive 3-pointers to put them up with 2:52 left in the third quarter, then dominated the fourth quarter.

The Knicks recorded a 10-5

record in February; their first 10-win February since 1996-97.

Antawn Jamison had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Cleveland, which has lost three in a row.

Celtics 102, Bucks 96

In Boston, Rajon Rondo had 15 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to record his third triple-double of the season and lead Boston past Milwaukee.

Rondo had six rebounds and five assists in the third quarter, when the Celtics went on a 20-4 run to turn a five-point deficit into a double-digit lead. The Bucks cut it to two points in the final minute, but Kevin Garnett made four free throws in the last 15 seconds to clinch it.

Garnett scored 25 points with 10 rebounds for Boston, which returned to .500.

Ersan Ilyasova had 25 points with 10 rebounds for the Bucks.

Magic 102, Wizards 95

In Washington, Ryan Anderson had 23 points and 15 rebounds as Orlando pulled away late in the fourth quarter to beat Washington.

Anderson scored 11 in the fourth quarter and led seven players in double figures for the Magic, who blew a 17-point first-quarter lead against the lowly Wizards, committed 18 turnovers.

The visitors survived an off night for Dwight Howard, who was 4 for 9 from the field and 6 for 11 from the free-throw line, yet still finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

John Wall had 33 points to the lead the Wizards, who lost their sixth straight.

Raptors 95, Hornets 84

In New Orleans, Linas Kleiza and DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points apiece as Toronto rallied to beat New Orleans.

The Raptors, who trailed 69-62 after tying a season low for points in a quarter with 11 in the third, broke loose for 33 in the fourth, matching a season best for any quarter. They hit their first eight shots and took control by scoring 22 points in the first 4:22.

Kleiza tied a career high with five 3-pointers off the bench, including three in the fourth.

Marco Belinelli had 20 points for the Hornets, who missed 13 consecutive shots in the fourth quarter and lost for the 16th straight time after trailing at halftime.

Pistons 109, Bobcats 94

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey scored 29 points as Detroit cruised past lowly Charlotte.

Greg Monroe added 19 points and a career-high 20 rebounds for the Pistons.

Corey Maggette had 17 points for Charlotte, which has lost 19 of 20 and lost Bismack Biyombo to a shoulder strain.

Woods stares down reporter over Haney book



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods had a terse exchange with

a magazine reporter Wednesday over excerpts from his former swing coach's new book, and ended the conversation with a long stare and a sarcastic, "Have a good day."

If that wasn't enough, he fielded 10 questions about his putting.

And so began a bumpy road to the Masters for Woods, who has gone more than two years without winning on the PGA Tour, and is approaching the four-year anniversary of his last major championship.

Woods, who last year moved to Palm Beach County, is playing the Honda Classic for the first time since 1993, when he was a 17-year-old with no big concerns except to finish high school.

Hank Haney's book, "The Big Miss," is scheduled for release March 27, the week before the Masters. The book is about Haney's six years as Woods' swing coach, and Golf Digest on Tuesday began to release excerpts through its tablet applications.

In the excerpt, Haney details Woods' fascination with the military, particularly the Navy SEALs.

"I was beginning to realize

that his sentiment ran deep, and that as incredible as it seemed, Tiger was seriously considering becoming a Navy SEAL," Haney wrote, referring to the summer of 2007. "I didn't know how he'd go about it, but when he talked about it, it was clear that he had a plan. After finding out that the Navy SEAL age limit is 28, I asked Tiger about his being too old to join. 'It's not a problem,' he said. 'They're making a special age exemption for me.'"

When asked about the book, Woods said his disappointment with Haney hasn't changed. When asked his reaction to the excerpt, Woods replied, "Well, I've already talked about it."

His agent, Mark Steinberg, said in a statement Tuesday afternoon that Haney engaged in "armchair psychology" that was "ridiculous."

"Because of his father, it's no secret that Tiger has always had high respect for the military, so for Haney to twist that admiration into something negative is disrespectful," Steinberg said.

Woods' father, Earl, was part of the U.S. Army's special forces.

The press conference at PGA National turned awkward when Alex Miceli, a Golfweek senior writer and contributor to Golf Channel, asked Woods if he considered being a Navy SEAL at the height of his career.

"I've already talked about everything in the book. I've

already commented on everything, Alex," Woods said.

"Then I must have missed you answering that question," Miceli replied.

"Well, I've already commented on the book. Is that in the book? Is it in the book?" Woods said.

Miceli replied he had not seen the book.

"You're a beauty, you know that?" Woods said, trying to smile.

Miceli said Steinberg's statement suggested something was wrong with the excerpt and he wanted to know if it was true. Woods paused for a moment, said with indifference, "I don't know," then stared at him and said, "Have a good day."

It was a change from the way he handled a press conference in December 2010. Tom Callahan had written in "His Father's Son" that he would not have been surprised if Woods had followed his father into the military. Woods was asked that day where Callahan came up with that notion.

"Well, I've always wanted to become a SEAL," Woods said back then. "That's something that I told my dad from the very get-go—either I'm going to become a professional golfer or I'm going to go become a Navy SEAL."

On Wednesday, Woods worked hard to contain his anger.

The Haney book figures to be the latest distraction for Woods,

whose life has been loaded with them since his downfall caused by extramarital affairs. Since he returned from the scandal at the 2010 Masters, Woods has gone through a divorce and went more than a year before adding corporate sponsors. He changed coaches and caddies, and missed four months with leg injuries.

His new swing—the fourth overhaul he has made since turning pro in 1996—is coming together nicely. Woods has shown greater command of his golf ball in the last four months, giving himself a chance to win four times. He won his Chevron World Challenge at the end of last year with birdies on the last two holes.

But the putter, the one club in his bag no one could ever question, has become a talking point.

Woods lost in the second round of the Match Play Championship last week when he badly missed a 5-foot par on the 18th hole. He left Arizona by saying it would take him one day to fix it.

"I had to go back to putting in the reps, and I did," he said. "I spent almost four hours the other day putting, which was good—two different sessions ... with a meal in between," he said. "I just worked on just going back to my old basics with my dad, and some of the things that he taught me. When I looked at the tape, I got away from some of those things."

This week presents a different test.

Woods has not played PGA National—a typical Florida course with water hazards on just about every hole—since he was 14 and lost on the final day of the PGA Junior Championship to Chris Couch.

Jack Nicklaus has revamped the course significantly since then. It plays to a par 70 with a brutal stretch of closing holes.

And while Woods looks capable of winning any time he plays—depending on the putter—he no longer is considered the favorite. That role belongs to 22-year-old Rory McIlroy, who broke several of Woods' records in winning the U.S. Open last summer and who could go to No. 1 in the world if he were to win.

Also in the field is Lee West-

wood, No. 3 in the world, coming off a semifinal loss to McIlroy last week in the Match Play.

Woods also was asked why he has never hired a coach to help with his short game and putting.

"Haven't needed one," he said. "I think I've had a pretty good career."

Greg Norman said he watched Woods at the Match Play and thought his putting stroke was different one day from the next.

"Is that a technique? Or is that tension or ... is that a mental block?" he said. "We all hate being in that position. When you see the best struggling, you feel for them because you know what it's doing to them inside. And every 5-foot putt he misses, you feel like another nail might be going in that gets a little bit deeper and a little bit harder."

Queen Elizabeth II to open 2012 Olympics

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II's busy summer calendar just got a bit more crowded.

Buckingham Palace said the monarch will open both the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics this summer, signaling that both events will be celebrated as great state occasions—something the British are famous for.

It is the first time the queen has opened the Paralympic Games, though she has often honored Paralympians for their achievements in the past. Elizabeth and her husband, Prince Philip, will perform the ceremonial role at the 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium when the Olympic games begin on July 27, and for the Paralympic Games on Aug. 29.

"I think that this is great news for the games," said Tanni Grey-Thompson, one of Britain's most successful Paralympic athletes, in an email. "I'm sure that it will make it very special for the athletes. It really raises it to another level."

The queen follows in the footsteps of her father, the late King George VI, who opened the 1948 London Olympics, and her great grandfather, King Edward VII, who opened the 1908 London Olympics. Elizabeth also opened the 1976 Games in Canada, where she is the head of state, while Philip did so on her behalf at Melbourne, Australia, in 1956.

The decision to open both ceremonies caps a very busy year for the queen, whose Diamond Jubilee this year marks her 60 years on the throne.

The monarch, 85, and Philip, 90, are planning an extensive tour of the United Kingdom during the celebrations, including visits to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Philip is

planning to stick to the schedule despite his December heart scare, which required the insertion of a stent to keep his coronary arteries open.

At home, the celebrations will include a flotilla on the River Thames, a gala concert in front of Buckingham Palace (with headliners including Paul McCartney and Elton John) and a carriage procession through the streets of London following a service of thanksgiving.

Unlike earlier jubilee celebrations, the queen will send her children and grandchildren on official visits to many Commonwealth countries rather than undertake the strenuous voyages herself.

She will be busy at the palace, though. Elizabeth will open Buckingham Palace to visitors from June 30-July 8 to accommodate Olympic activities. The palace then will close for a few weeks—until July 31—before opening to the public as is the monarch's usual summer practice.

Though it was long assumed that the queen, as head of state, would open the Olympics, her involvement in opening the Paralympics was not widely anticipated, as she normally takes her holiday at this time of year. Historian Hugo Vickers said that the decision reflects her interest in honoring the accomplishments of the athletes.

"They are going to be taken very seriously," he said of the games. "I think it's going to be great."

Some 4,200 athletes will take part in the Paralympic Games from Aug. 29 to Sept 9. The event marks the return of the games to their roots.

The Paralympics started in London in 1948 when injured veterans held the first disabled sport competition in archery.







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EVENT SPONSORS

Steelers will release Hines Ward



PITTSBURGH
(AP) — Hines Ward's constant, ear-to-ear smile tucked behind a

black facemask has been a lasting image for Pittsburgh Steelers fans the past 14 seasons.

They won't see it again.

At least, not in a black-and-gold uniform.

The franchise's all-time leader in just about every meaningful receiving category will be released sometime in the next two weeks said president Art Rooney II on the team's website on Wednesday.

"We had a conversation today with Hines Ward and informed him that we plan to release him of his contract prior to the start of the 2012 NFL calendar year," Rooney said. "Hines has been an integral part of our success since we drafted him in 1998, and we will forever be grateful for what he has helped us achieve."

A four-time Pro Bowl selection and MVP of the 2006 Super Bowl, Ward will finish his Steelers career with 1,000 catches, 12,083 yards and 85 receiving touchdowns. He helped Pittsburgh to three AFC championships and a pair of Super Bowl wins.

The former "Dancing With the Stars" champion—who spent last weekend working the red carpet at the Oscars—doesn't appear ready to put away his cleats just yet, however.

While saying "this isn't how I wanted this chapter of my career to end," Ward vowed to return for a 15th season next fall.

"I do feel that I still have more football left in me and I am looking forward to playing in the NFL, again, this upcoming season," Ward said in a statement.

A third-round pick out of Georgia, Ward developed a reputation as one of the league's best blocking wide receivers, a trait that endeared him to the blue-collar fan base of one of the league's marquee franchises.

Ward was pretty good at catching passes too, particularly in the postseason. He helped the Steelers to their fifth Super Bowl in 2006 catching five passes for 123 receiving yards and a touchdown in a 21-10 win over Seattle.

"He has meant so much to this organization, both on and off the field," Rooney said, "and we appreciate his efforts over the past 14 years."

Just not enough to bring Ward, who turns 36 next week, back at \$4 million next season. The Steelers are in the midst of a roster-wide salary purge and a youth movement at receiver.

By the end of the 2011 season, Ward found himself on the sidelines for long stretches as youngsters Mike Wallace and Antonio Brown turned into quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's favorite targets.

Both receivers topped 1,100 yards receiving and combined



In this Dec. 12, 2010, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Hines Ward (86) stands on the sidelines during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Pittsburgh.

Teammate: Ex-Broncos player carried woman into bed

CASTLE ROCK, Colo.

(AP)—Denver Broncos wide receiver Demaryius Thomas testified at former teammate Perrish Cox's sexual assault trial Wednesday, saying that Cox carried a sleeping woman into his bed and then told Thomas, "I think she's ready."

Cox is accused of sexually assaulting the woman, who testified earlier Wednesday. Both the woman and Thomas told jurors they kissed on an air mattress at Cox's apartment after meeting Cox and Cox's girlfriend at a club.

Thomas said the woman fell asleep, and he dismissed Cox's suggestion, saying he didn't want to have sex with the woman because she was drunk.

"I wanted to have sex with her but I didn't," Thomas testified. "We hadn't done nothing before. I wasn't going to try nothing that night because she had been drinking. She had got drunk."

Cox's lawyer, Harvey Steinberg, objected to Thomas' testimony because he hadn't used the "she's ready" phrase in a previous interview and asked for a mistrial. The judge rejected that.

Thomas testified that Cox then sat with him in the living room for a while. He said the woman was still in the bed-

room when he left about an hour later.

The woman testified that she had a fuzzy memory of what happened that night and suspected she had been drugged after she woke up feeling sick the next day.

Under questioning from Cox's attorney, the woman said if something had happened with Thomas, she wouldn't have considered it rape.

"It wouldn't have been fine but I wouldn't have seen it as rape if he admitted it," she said, referring to Thomas.

The Associated Press isn't identifying the woman because she's an alleged victim of a sexual crime.

She said Thomas denied that anything had happened. Later, she found out she was pregnant, and she contacted authorities Oct. 28, 2010.

A DNA analyst testified that a paternity test using a sample taken from the woman's placenta showed that Cox was the father, with more than 99 percent certainty. Thomas and Cox's roommate, Cassius Vaughn, who was asleep in the apartment at the time of the alleged assault, also submitted DNA samples and were ruled out as the father.

Steinberg rebutted the expert's testimony by suggest-

ing the sample may have been contaminated because it was an expedited request.

Prosecutors Chris Gallo and Bob Chappell present a case that's straightforward: Cox denies having sex with the woman, who can't recall having sex that night but became pregnant and Cox's DNA matched the fetus.

But Steinberg, through cross examination of the prosecutors' witnesses, paints a picture of partying and failed sexual relations between Thomas and the woman, and possible sexual relations between the woman and Cox's girlfriend, Carthy Che.

Thomas testified that the alleged victim was the aggressor when she jumped in the front seat with him and they started kissing as they drove with Cox and Che to Cox's apartment.

The alleged victim testified that she didn't think she was drunk because she said she could have between 10 and 15 drinks without blacking out.

Che also testified but rambled at times and couldn't recall whether she spoke to an investigator who was sitting in the courtroom. In a question sent through Douglas County District Judge Paul King, jurors asked whether she was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"No," she answered.

Thomas said the woman and Che appeared fine and were able to walk up the stairs to the apartment.

Thomas sent the woman a text message around noon that day to ask if she remembered what happened earlier, which the woman told police she found suspicious. Thomas said he sent the text after Vaughn told him at practice that Che and the accuser had "girl-on-girl action."

"I asked if she hooked up with Che," Thomas testified. He said he stopped texting her after she didn't respond to about five messages.

Cox has pleaded not guilty to one count of sexual assault while the victim was physically helpless and one count of sexual assault while the victim was incapable of determining the nature of the conduct. He faces two years to life in prison if convicted.

A witness list of those who are expected to testify in Castle Rock, 30 miles south of Denver, remains sealed, although King told potential jurors that Vaughn and Broncos linebacker Wesley Woodyard could be called.

Thomas caught an 80-yard touchdown to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in a first-round playoff game in January.

being of how to be a pro into the room."

Now the corner locker he's held for more than a decade is vacant.

"Enjoyed playing with mvp86hinesward learned a lot! Was a great mentor for me! You define a "Steeler", Brown tweeted after the announcement.

In a franchise built on the churning legs of Franco Harris, Rocky Bleier and Jerome Bettis, Ward blossomed into one of the league's most reliable receivers while serving as a security blanket for everyone from Kordell Stewart to Tommy Maddox to Roethlisberger. Ward has six 1,000-yard receiving seasons, and just missed two more, posting 975 in both 2005-06 and 2006-07. He also returned eight kicks for 210 yards.

"Hines' accomplishments are numerous," Rooney said, "and he will always be thought of as one of the all-time great Steelers.

"We wish him nothing but the best."

In his last game as a Steeler, a 29-23 postseason, overtime loss to the Denver Broncos on Jan. 8, Ward did not record a catch.

The final pass thrown to him in a Steeler uniform came on Pittsburgh's final drive when Roethlisberger tried to hit Ward running down the sideline. Denver defensive back Champ Bailey knocked it away, leaving Ward to face an uncertain future.

He may end his career in a different city, but Ward left little doubt where his heart lies.

"I gave my heart and soul for (the fans) every down and I will always bleed black-and-gold," Ward said.

Now, he'll have to do it wearing another uniform if he wants to play again.

A-Rod, Jeter not taking bait from Valentine



T A M - PA, Fla.
(AP) —

Alex Rodriguez laughed off Bobby Valentine's comments about his 2004 scrap with Jason Varitek, then made a brief statement and ducked through the crowd of reporters surrounding his locker.

Derek Jeter spoke longer, but was no less bemused.

The first Yankees-Red Sox stir of the new season appears to be fizzling out.

Valentine, Boston's new manager, said Tuesday that Jeter didn't need to make his famous flip-to-home relay during the 2001 playoffs and fondly recalled when Varitek "beat up" Rodriguez in 2004.

Rodriguez said Wednesday he didn't want to get into a war of words with Valentine. Jeter found the topic ridiculous, saying he's "indifferent" to Valentine's jabs.

for 10 touchdowns, while Ward had just 46 catches for 381 yards and two scores. It was the worst reception total since his rookie year (15).

Ward took the demotion in

stride and relished the role of elder statesmen. Wallace, Brown and Emmanuel Sanders credited Ward for helping mature both on and off the field.

All three players hoped Ward

would come back for one more go, but understood they were nearing the end of an era.

"We all know the direction in which we're going with the receiving corps," Sanders

said last month. "But, like I said, Hines is still a great addition, just the knowledge he brings to the room. You can't pay for that. You can't coach that. He just brings that well

MANTA

From Page 32

SSHS’ Jack Aranda and Jay-mark De Guzman combined for 11 points as seven different Manta Rays chipped in on the surge.

MHS was living or dying by the three-ball and came up dry in the third after nailing four treys in the second quarter to keep within range.

Aranda paced the Manta Rays with seven points in the third quarter as they pulled away, 58-45, heading into the final period.

The Manta Rays maintained roughly a 10-point lead for the remainder of the contest.

CLIFFHANGERS

From Page 32

the San Vicente A’s snuck past the Natibu Tanapag Braves, 6-5; the JPO-DPS Dare Program Enforcers edged out IT&E, 4-3; and the As Matuis Twins held off the Natuibu Tanapag Falcons, 6-6.

In the Senior League , Marianas CableVision Kagman Lions bested Saipan Shipping Company Jets, 6-5, at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Ballfield.

MAJOR LEAGUE A’s 6, Braves 5

It was tied at 3-apiece after four frames and both teams added a run in the last inning of regulation, after which the A’s held the Braves to one run in the top of the bonus frame and got the two runs needed for the decision in the bottom frame from a clutch RBI double by Christian Lizama. He was brought to the plate off a fielder’s choice by Myles Santos.

Enforcers 4, IT&E 3

Both teams managed three runs in the third inning and neither blinked through the last three innings of regulation.

Then the Enforcers’ Kier Agda came to the mound for Joaquin Saralu after a leadoff single start-

The Dolphins flirted with a comeback on a couple of occasions, but SSHS handled the pressure well in the clutch.

Aranda led three teammates in double figures with 19, while MHS’ John Darag topped the field with 20 markers in a losing effort.

In the junior paring, SSHS got the jump on the junior Dolphins from the tip and managed a 10-7 lead in the first quarter and maintained the edge in the second period as the count shifted, 18-15, at the half.

Emerson Feria led the junior Manta Rays with six points at the mid-point of the match.

Feria and Daniel Camacho

ed the bottom half of the sixth inning and shut down IT&E.

His team rewarded both efforts by manufacturing the winning run in the extra frame with assistance by an untimely error that allowed Enforcers’ Dennis Cabrera to score from second base.

Winning pitcher Saralu allowed two earned runs off three hits with two walks and seven strikeouts in five innings. However it turned out to be quite a pitching duel as IT&E starter Matt Kapileo gave up a pair of earned runs off just two hits with three walks and 10 strikeouts in five innings.

Twins 6, Falcons 5

The Twins did all of their damage in the bottom of the second inning off two hits, two walks, a fielder’s choice, and some sketchy throws to seize control, 6-1, after two.

Blade Igitol nabbed an RBI fielder’s choice and Oscar Lizama belted an RBI single in the uprising. The Twins went on to keep the Falcons at bay in the final stand.

Winning pitcher John Atalig gave up one earned run off two hits and two walks with 13 strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings. He got a little wild at the start of the fourth, and allowed a leadoff walk to the plate off some pitch-

shot with a lot of time left, Lerio for the third time pulled up for a triple and faltered anew. Berline controlled the rebound and then drove to the basket, but his banked shot was way too strong. Rabauliman went for the follow-up, but missed two as time expired, sending the game in overtime.

Kae Bernardo scored Crystal Pure’s first three points in the extra canto, while Lerio made up for his earlier booboos, canning two important free throws that sealed their come-from-behind win. Shirley’s failed to save a win in overtime, as it was held to only one field goal in the first four minutes of extension.

Shirley’s had its biggest lead at the 46-29 tally after a J.R. Barrios triple, with over three minutes left in the third. Shirley’s the finished the third period and started the first 4:30 of the fourth without Rabauliman, who had a slight injury on his right thigh after colliding

then added four points apiece in the third period and marched ahead, 31-24, heading into the fourth quarter.

In the end, SSHS’ Feria tallied nine markers in the clutch to seal the deal.

He finished with a game-high 19 points, while Jacob Palacios led MHS with only eight points.

In Monday’s varsity match, Joshua Jones heated up early with 10 points in the first quarter as the Ayuyus pounced on GCA early, 22-10.

KHS then trudged ahead, 42-14, and stuffed the Eagles to just four free throws in the second period as six different Ayuyus contributed over on the offen-

es in the dirt, but buckled down and sat down the next three men he faced.

Lizama stepped to the rubber to close up shop and got the save despite some defensive setbacks in the final frame. Lizama also batted 2-for-2 with an RBI, a run, and a base on balls.

BIG LEAGUE Hunters 4, Lions 1

The Hunters took an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning from an error and an RBI base rip by Anthony Guerrero.

The Hunters later added two more in the bottom of the fifth off an error and an RBI single by Joseph Atalig before closing the last three outs.

The Lions lone run came in the top of the sixth off a double by Richard Dela Cruz, but the team was pretty well tamed by the Hunters throughout the match.

Hunters relief pitcher Joseph Palacios was issued the win and gave up one run off three hits in four innings.

SENIOR DIVISION Lions 6, Jets 5

It was tied at 4-4 after four innings and both teams tacked on a run in the late innings to push it into extra innings.

The Lions managed an early

against Crystal Pure defenders. Shirley’s also lost Tony Diaz in the second half due to an injury late in the second period.

Rabauliman and Diaz’s absence and Berline’s foul trouble allowed Bernardo and company to come back and eventually steal the win in overtime.

Blue Haus 83, SCS 79

In the curtain-raiser, Blue Haus (2-1) finally completed a game after two straight rained-out matches.

The defending champion got a big lift from Brendon Talania, Elmer Esdrelon, and Buds Camacho to hand SCS Heavy Equipment its first loss after four games. The Blue Haus trio combined for 57 points with Talania making seven of his game-high 21 points in the fourth to keep their team in the lead. Camacho added 19, seven of them came in the third period where Blue Haus took the lead, 67-61, after a deadlock at the break, 44-44. Esdrelon finished

sive end.

The game was pretty much out of reach for GCA by the start of the second half and it only got worse.

KHS kept the pedal on the floor and pulled away, 60-26, heading into the final period.

Jones carried the torch with 24 points in the game, while GCA’s Kim scrambled for 17 in the onslaught.

Then in the junior tiff, GCA was doubled up, 4-8, out of the gate, but trimmed it to a one-point deficit, 11-12, at intermission.

The Eagles continued to keep pace with KHS and locked it at 18-all with a quarter to go.

GCA’s James Libut delivered

2-1 edge in the opening frame off a couple of leadoff walks, a sacrifice fly by Dave Matagolai, and a base smash by Bret Halstead.

Lions’ Paul Celis stole home in the bottom of the second inning, but the Jets fired back with three runs in the top of the third to turn the tables, 4-3, off a wild pitch and an RBI single by Matthew Maeda. Maeda also would later steal the dish, but the Lions swiped back and tied it at 4-all off an RBI walk in the bottom half.

The Jets managed a run in the top of the fifth, but the Lions matched it in the bottom of the sixth inning, shifting the count to 5-all.

Lions’ Justin Reyes came to the mound in relief for Cedric Ada to start the seventh inning and did a solid job.

At that point in the match, the Lions were working Jets reliever Allan Cabrera for over four innings and finally found their timing in the bonus frame to take the win. Notably, the result came off a tough-break leadoff error, which helped set up the walk-off base knock by Brel Yobech in the eighth inning.

Winning pitcher Ada allowed zero earned runs and gave up six hits with three walks and five strikeouts in six innings.

with 17 and five of them came at crunch time.

Jack Lizama paced SCS with 17, but was held to only a field goal in the fourth period.

First Game

Blue Haus 83 – Talania 21, Camacho 19, Esdrelon 17, Itaas 8, Guiab 8, Tumaquip 4, Fernandez 2.

SCS 79 – Lizama 17, Tamayo 16, Aquino 15, Galarse 12, Pantaleon 11, Mina 3, Tobias 3, Guiang 3.

Scoring by quarters: 15-19, 44-44, 67-61, 83-79.

Second Game

Crystal Pure/Mekeni 68 – Bernardo 18, Yabut 12, Miranda 11, Mendoza 8, Lerio 7, Cruz 6, Johnson 2.

Shirley’s Coffee Shop 63 – Rabauliman 16, Berline 13, Norita 11, Barrios 7, Diaz 6, Lang 5, Tomokane 4, Petersberg 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-14, 36-47, 37-51, 59-59, 68-63.

four points at crunch time, but KHS’ Cedric Ada and Angelo Racaido answered with three apiece that left the edge with the Ayuyus at the buzzer.

Jonathan Santos led KHS with 10 points, while GCA’s Dong Ha Lee finished with 8 on the short end.

The MISO boys caging double-elimination postseason is scheduled for March 9 and 10. Details will be released tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY VARSITY

SSHS 77 – Aranda 18, Mizer 13, Tudela 13, De Guzman 11, Alegre 8, Salem 6, Mariano 4, Escalada 2, Hofchneider 2.

MHS 63 – Darag 20, Caro 10, Dela Rosa 9, Maranan 6, Francisco 5, Moran 4, Lacsina 2, Ogomoro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-10, 39-32, 58-45, 77-63.

JUNIOR VARSITY

SSHS 46 – Feria 19, Cama-

cho 8, Javier 7, Park 6, Kintaro 2, Palacios 2, Acopiado 2.

MHS 33 – Palacios 8, Manalili 5, Lansang 4, Aguilar 4, Dai 3, W Camacho 2, Cayading 2, Yap 2, DLGuerrero 2, Capuyon 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-7, 18-15, 31-24, 46-33.

MONDAY VARSITY

KHS 75 – Jones 24, Mettao 14, B Santos 9, Subalao 8, Nerro 8, Bornilla 6, Taitano 4, Butters 2, Lampkin 2.

GCA 42 – Kim 17, A. Salas 14, Borja 4, Libut 2, Reyes 2, Sugue 2, J. Salas 1.

Scoring by Quarters: 22-10, 42-14, 60-26, 75-42.

JUNIOR VARSITY

KHS 28 – Jo. Santos 10, Ada 7, Racaido 5, Je. Santos 4.

GCA 25 – Lee 8, Smithee 6, Del Rosario 3, Libut 4, Reyes 2, Sugue 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-4, 12-11, 18-18, 28-25.

lides against Paire in the second match at 4:30pm.

Meanwhile, the non-competitive games in the four other age groups had started the spring season last Saturday at the various school fields on Saipan.

The co-ed U6 division has five teams in Tan Holdings, Shirley’s. MP United, Paire, and Matansa, while U10 has the most squads this season with eight. The co-ed U10 field includes Matansa, Paire 1 and 2, Tan Holdings 1 and 2, MP United 1 and 2, and Shirley’s. The co-ed U18 and U12 have seven teams apiece. Playing in the U8 are Shirley’s two teams from Paire and MP United, Tan Holdings, and Matansa. MP United and Paire also have two entries each in the U12 division and they will battle Matansa, Tan Holdings, and Shirley’s FC.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

NBA LEADERS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	21	15	.583	—
Boston	17	17	.500	3
New York	18	18	.500	3
Toronto	11	24	.314	9 1/2
New Jersey	11	25	.306	10

Southeast Division

Miami	27	7	.794	—
Orlando	23	13	.639	5
Atlanta	20	15	.571	7 1/2
Washington	7	28	.200	20 1/2
Charlotte	4	29	.121	22 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	29	8	.784	—
Indiana	22	12	.647	5 1/2
Milwaukee	14	21	.400	14
Cleveland	13	20	.394	14
Detroit	12	25	.324	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	24	11	.686	—
Dallas	21	15	.583	3 1/2
Houston	21	15	.583	3 1/2
Memphis	20	15	.571	4
New Orleans	8	27	.229	16

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	28	7	.800	—
Denver	19	17	.528	9 1/2
Portland	18	17	.514	10
Minnesota	18	18	.500	10 1/2
Utah	16	18	.471	11 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	20	12	.625	—
L.A. Lakers	21	14	.600	1/2
Golden State	14	18	.438	6
Phoenix	14	20	.412	7
Sacramento	12	22	.353	9

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 102, Washington 95

Oklahoma City 92, Philadelphia 88

Golden State 85, Atlanta 82

Boston 102, Milwaukee 96

Detroit 109, Charlotte 94

New York 120, Cleveland 103

Toronto 95, New Orleans 84

Memphis 96, Dallas 85

Denver 104, Portland 95

Utah 104, Houston 83

Chicago 96, San Antonio 89

L.A. Lakers 104, Minnesota 85

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	34	351	217	966	28.4
Durant, OKC	34	343	204	948	27.9
James, MIA	33	326	225	903	27.4
Love, MIN	33	262	236	809	24.5
Westbrook, OKC	34	303	166	799	23.5
Aldridge, POR	32	289	134	713	22.3
Ellis, GOL	30	246	133	665	22.2
D. Williams, NJN	35	256	172	768	21.9
Griffin, LAC	32	282	128	693	21.7
Howard, ORL	35	258	186	702	20.1
Nowitzki, DAL	31	221	141	611	19.7
Parker, SAN	33	241	149	639	19.4
Lee, GOL	30	237	97	571	19.0
Gay, MEM	34	261	92	642	18.9
Jefferson, UTA	30	248	70	566	18.9
Bosh, MIA	34	241	138	627	18.4
Irving, CLE	29	197	101	532	18.3
Jennings, MIL	34	231	89	620	18.2
Granger, IND	32	191	141	583	18.2
Martin, HOU	33	196	131	590	17.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGAPCT
Chandler, NYK	137	195 .703
Pekovic, MIN	130	223 .583
Gortat, PHX	230	410 .561
Howard, ORL	258	466 .554
James, MIA	326	596 .547
Bynum, LAL	196	360 .544
Nash, PHX	168	310 .542
Griffin, LAC	282	524 .538
Boozer, CHI	254	473 .537
McGee, WAS	176	331 .532

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEFTOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	35	126	408	534 15.3
Love, MIN	33	135	321	456 13.8
Bynum, LAL	30	103	280	383 12.8
Cousins, SAC	33	153	228	381 11.5
Griffin, LAC	32	103	256	359 11.2
Humphries, NJN	33	127	225	352 10.7
Gasol, LAL	34	106	255	361 10.6
Gortat, PHX	34	90	265	355 10.4
Noah, CHI	35	131	222	353 10.1
Gasol, MEM	34	73	269	342 10.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	31	339	10.9
Rondo, BOS	23	221	9.6
Calderon, TOR	34	302	8.9
Paul, LAC	27	229	8.5
Rubio, MIN	35	293	8.4
D. Williams, NJN	35	290	8.3
Parker, SAN	33	266	8.1
Wall, WAS	34	266	7.8
Rose, CHI	26	201	7.7
Lowry, HOU	34	249	7.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marianas Cup Pro-Am Exhibition Matches

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Above left, Kirk Pitman tries to block a spike by Kentaro Asahi.

Above, Hiroku Matsuyama jumps up at the net to try and block a spike by Mengumi Murakami.

Far left, American pro Ty Loomis tries to tip the ball over 6'6" Olympian Kentaro Asahi of Japan.

Left, Mengumi Murakami spikes the ball over the net.

Right, Kentaro Asahi tries to block a spike by Kirk Pitman during the 2012 Marianas Cup Pro-Am Exhibition Matches held last Feb. 24 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

Far right, Samaa Miyagawa tries to block a shot by Hiroyo Kaneda.

Below left, Hiroyo Kaneda cranks out a "sky ball" served high into the air.

Below right, American pro Ty Loomis sniffs out a tough serve.





Activity Schedule for March 2, 2012

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices

2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Tournament

Games start at 6:00 PM

2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Tournament

Games start at 6:00 PM

There are no scheduled games.







**Steelers will
release Hines
Ward**

PAGE 29

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Masked Kobe
leads Lakers'
blowout of
Timberwolves**

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32 FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Manta Rays finish first in boys caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays avenged its first-round loss against the Marianas High School Dolphins with an impressive 77-63 victory at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Wednesday that locked up the No. 1 seeding in the postseason of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys varsity basketball regular season.

Cliffhangers mark Little League Sunday

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Four out of five Saipan Little League matches held at the Oleai Sports Complex last Sunday were decided by just one

run, while another resulted in a 4-1 score for the Big League St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters over the Kagman Lions (0-2).

In the Major Division pairings held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, See CLIFFHANGERS on Page 30



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
St. Michael's Hunters' Lincoln Ingram, seen here in a file photo, eyes an incoming pitch in last week's Big League matchup against Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



SSHS finished with a stout 7-1 win-loss record, while MHS and Kagman High School share identical 5-2 cards.

In addition, SSHS also bested MHS in the junior varsity match, 46-33.

The junior Manta Rays notched its fifth win in seven games, while the junior Dolphins fell for the first time in six games.

Back on Monday, the Kagman High School varsity Ayuyus screamed past the Grace Christian Academy Eagles, 75-

42. GCA finished the year with a 2-6 slate.

Meanwhile, KHS also clipped a feisty GCA crew in the junior pairing, 28-25. Both teams left the match with identical 3-3 records.

On Wednesday, SSHS worked out to a 13-10 lead in the opening 10 minutes off six points by Jimmy Tudela.

The Manta Rays then buried a pair of late 3-pointers that stretched it to a 39-32 cushion at halftime.

See MANTA on Page 30

Saipan Southern High School's Jack Aranda sells a nice shot-fake against Marianas High School in Tuesday's MISO boys varsity caging at the MHS Gymnasium.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Crystal Pure outlasts Shirley's in OT U15, U18 spring league kicks off tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe notched its first win in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League after eking out a 68-63 overtime victory over Shirley's Coffee Shop Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It was another sorry loss for Shirley's (0-3), as it led by as much as 17 in the third quarter only to collapse in the fourth and fell short in the extension period. Shirley's went 2-for-6 from the foul line in overtime and was held to two field goals, allowing Crystal Pure to steal the win. Crystal Pure nailed three field goals and was 3-for-4 from the stripe.

See CRYSTAL on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe's Mike Cruz, center, is double-teamed by Shirley's Coffee Shop's Yosh Gabaldon, left, and Jerome Norita during the third quarter of their game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Action in the U15 and U18 divisions of the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League will start tomorrow at two different pitches.

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex, boys U15 defending champion MP United 1 will start its campaign against Matansa Football Club, as the two teams square off in the second game at 3:15pm. MP United 2 will also play in the opening week, taking on Shirley's FC at 1:30pm.

Six teams are entered in the boys U15 league with Paire Football Club and Tan Holdings completing the roster. Paire will have its season debut next week when it duels Matansa at 1:30pm, while Tan Holdings first game will be against Shirley's FC at 3:15pm.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United U15's Dakota Hall, right, and U18's Clay McCullough-Stearns are in a footrace during their game in the 2011 FA Challenge Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The U15 and U18 divisions of the NMIFA spring league will start this Saturday.

Format for the boys U15 league is double-round robin.

The boys' U18 will be played for four rounds, as four teams are entered in the division. Defending champion MP United

will have its debut next week against Tan Holdings FC at 10am at the Oleai pitch. Tan Holdings FC will see action in the opener this Saturday

See U15 on Page 30